

‘Ghetto’ Dorm Party Sparks Race Debate

By Sam Hwang
and Keith J. Winstein
STAFF REPORTERS

An East Campus party invitation employing racial stereotypes has triggered controversy around campus, drawing condemnation from President Charles M. Vest and subjecting its organizers to a disciplinary investigation.

The organizers, Philip J. Butler ’04, Leonid Drozhinin ’04, Ankur M. Mehta G, and Kabir J. Mukadam ’05, say their announcement (see page 14) was intended to make fun of gangster rappers. “It’s a parody of how gangster rap glorifies this lifestyle,” Butler said.

But several students and Vest said they found the announcement offensive and racist, as perpetuating the same stereotypes the organizers say they intended to lampoon.

The organizers have apologized, writing in an e-mail (see page 15) to the Campus Committee on Race Relations that, “We have recognized that we have trivialized a racially sensitive topic.”

Invitation, party found offensive

In an e-mail invitation, the organizers said the party would include “KFC, malt liquor, and boxed wine.” The invitation included a document known as the “Walcott Manifesto,” written last year by residents of the Walcott section of Third East, that encourages recipi-

ents to litter, paint graffiti, play loud rap music, and steal.

“And after you pass out from all the 40s, you can rest up in the Walcott lounge tent-city-designed to look and feel like those dirty places where real poor people live,” the invitation said.

Another invitation read, “Callin all you playas, pimps, hos, gangstas, and bitches... there be a party goin down.”

UA president attended, complained

The “Ghetto Party” occurred last Thursday evening at 10 p.m. and was attended by about 30 students. The organizers insist the party included rap music but no racially-themed material. “The only thing that matched the e-mail was the music,” Butler said.

At about 11:30 p.m., the president and vice president of the Undergraduate Association, Pius A. Uzamere II ’04 and Jacob W. Faber ’04, arrived at the party, said Uzamere and the organizers.

Uzamere and Faber spoke with Drozhinin and said the party and announcement were derogatory and offensive.

“This isn’t just an issue of two students being offended, namely Jacob and I,” Uzamere said. “This is a lot of people who were offended.”

Uzamere stressed that “we were

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JOHN CLOUTIER—THE TECH

A photo exhibit entitled “Being LGBT and at MIT” stands in Lobby 10 on Thursday. The photo collection showcased lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered students, faculty, and staff at MIT. Organizers plan to make the display a semiannual event.

Smoking Ban To Impact Dorms

By Lauren E. LeBon
NEWS EDITOR

Smoking is no longer permitted in public spaces of student dormitories, in accordance with the newly established smoking ban in Cambridge.

According to Section 8.28.090 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, as of Oct. 1 private student rooms are the only acceptable areas for smoking in a university dormitory, and only then if the dormitory allows smoking and all of residents of the room request in writing for their room to allow smoking.

Overseers of a building are required by Cambridge law to prominently post “No Smoking” signs in areas where smoking is not permitted. Lounges and hallways in MacGregor, Bexley, East Campus, and Senior House, where smoking was once allowed in public spaces,

now display “No Smoking” signs.

While large lounges are clearly public spaces and student rooms are clearly private spaces, many are unsure whether the rules apply to suite common rooms.

Contracts Counsel Margaret W. Brill, a member of MIT Senior Counsel’s office, interpreted the Cambridge ordinance for the MIT community. Brill said that the rules governing smoking in suite common spaces would be left to the interpretation of house managers and housemasters.

Denise A. Vallay of the Housing Office said she was not sure about the smoking policy for suite lounges, but believed that it may be allowed. Rebecca A. Masterson G, a graduate residence tutor at Bexley Hall, was also not sure of the policy, but believed that suite common rooms are fair game since they can

be locked as private spaces.

Assistant Director of Housing Operations Carl A. Seagran also was not sure of the policy since it is not specifically outlined in the Cambridge ordinance.

Suite common rooms, which are features of Bexley Hall, Senior House, and Burton-Conner, are spaces that are shared by residents of a small group of dormitory rooms. In Bexley Hall, some common rooms double as hallways between different areas of the dormitory.

Jessica E. Hinel ’05, a deskworker at Senior House, said that the house manager had not informed residents about whether or not smoking was permitted in suite common rooms. Hinel said that Senior House residents researched

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New UA Web Site Tracks Progress of Year’s Goals

By Marissa Vogt
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A new feature of the Undergraduate Association Web site launched today will track the progress of various UA goals throughout the term.

The list is scheduled to be posted at 9 a.m. this morning and will include a description of each goal, the current progress, a target implementation date, and contact information.

“It’s going to be a centralized location where students can check up on what the UA is doing,” said UA President Pius A. Uzamere II ’04.

The Web site will be updated at least every two weeks, Uzamere said, and will include the goals of both the UA Senate and the UA Cabinet.

Part of the motivation behind the Web site is “to keep us all accountable,” said UA Senate Speaker Yun-Ling Wong ’04. “It will explain to

students ‘this is what the UA has done for me’”

“We hope to increase accountability in the UA as well as to make sure the goals of the UA are aligned with the goals of the students,” Uzamere said.

Variety of goals on Web site

The goals on the Web site are sorted into three categories: communication, concrete change, and community.

The Web site, Wong said, is not an all-inclusive list, but rather highlights of some of the more important projects whose progress will interest students.

Some of the goals include creating a UA question and answer column in *The Tech*, connecting Simmons with the rest of the west side

Goals, Page 12

Reactions To ‘03 Rush Positive

By Chen Zhao

On a whole, fraternity rush chairs and freshmen reported satisfaction with Rush this year, but are

making suggestions to improve the rush process for future years.

While some students said that they would like to see a longer Rush to give freshmen a better chance to learn about fraternities, others have said that a shorter Rush, that ends before classes become too intense, would be better.

Many students agree that Rush should be earlier. Taku Iida ’04, a

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NEWS AND OPINION

Three opinion columns and comprehensive news coverage of the “Ghetto Party” debate.

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Akshay Patil of Sinking Positive tries his hand at drawing comics.

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WORLD & NATION

Recall Complete, Schwarzenegger Plans His Next Steps

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Arnold Schwarzenegger moved quickly Wednesday to prepare for governing, naming a prominent Republican congressman to run his transition and suggesting he would call on President Bush to provide federal aid to California, now in Republican hands.

Schwarzenegger, who will become only the second governor in U.S. history to emerge from a recall election, held a post-election news conference here that set a tone of confidence, good humor and reconciliation.

“I made it very clear in my campaign that I will be the peoples’ governor,” Schwarzenegger said. “That is the most important thing: governor for the people, not for special interests, but for everybody.”

The movie star, whose celebrity helped drive his victory, said he would place his businesses in a blind trust and would stop making films. Yet he still used movie terminology, telling reporters with relish that one of his last campaign appearances had been “a good visual.”

He largely avoided specifics about his plans for dealing with the state’s biggest problems, including its chronic budget deficit.

But he repeated promises made during the campaign not to raise taxes, to repeal the recent tripling of vehicle registration fees and to rescind a law signed last month by Davis that allows undocumented workers to apply for a driver’s license.

Rumsfeld on the Defensive At Defense

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The White House and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld moved quickly on Wednesday to contain an unusual public breach over Iraq policy, a day after Rumsfeld testily told European reporters that he was not consulted before a reorganization designed to give the White House more control over the occupation of the country.

Appearing at a NATO conference in Colorado Springs on Wednesday afternoon, Rumsfeld tried to dismiss any talk of his diminished role in Iraq policy, suggesting at one point that reporters should concentrate on “something more important,” like the World Series potential of his hometown Chicago Cubs.

That tone contrasted with his harsh language on Tuesday, when he said President Bush and had never discussed with him the creation of the Iraq Stabilization Group, set up by Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser. He said that the first he heard of it was in a memorandum from Rice last week. In a seeming criticism of the White House he suggested that the National Security Council was finally focusing on doing what it should have been doing all along — coordinating the work of the many government agencies dealing with Iraq.

He told reporters on Tuesday “it’s not quite clear to me why” Rice sent him a memorandum on the subject. When he was pressed on the question by a German broadcast reporter, he retorted, “I said I don’t know. Isn’t that clear? You don’t understand English? I was not there for the backgrounding,” a reference to explanations of the new approach that were provided on Sunday to The New York Times.

Bush’s spokesman, Scott McClellan, retracted on Wednesday his statement on Monday that Rumsfeld had been fully involved in the decision to create the new group.

But several administration officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said on Wednesday that Rice had, in fact, discussed the issue with Rumsfeld and the other members of the national security council last week. The memorandum that she sent out last Thursday to Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and the director of the central intelligence agency, George Tenet, refers in its first sentence to previous discussions she had had with all of them.

Administration officials said that Rumsfeld’s display of pique appeared rooted in the widespread perception that his power was being diminished — a perception that Rice disputed on Sunday.

Drug Regimen Reduces Breast Cancer Recurrence, Study Says

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A new drug regimen can markedly reduce the chance that breast cancer will recur in postmenopausal women, a large international study has found.

The results, in fact, were so strongly, and surprisingly, positive that the investigators ended the study early and offered the women taking a placebo the drug instead.

The study involved 5,187 women in the United States, Canada and Europe. It asked what to do after they finished the recommended five-year course of tamoxifen, the standard treatment to prevent breast cancer recurrences.

Tamoxifen, which blocks estrogen, is remarkably effective in postmenopausal women whose cancers are fueled by the hormone. But women gain no additional benefits after they take tamoxifen for five years, so doctors have told them simply to stop taking it then and hope for the best.

They are better off for having taken it — the drug’s effects last for years after it is stopped — but they are left vulnerable to its return.

Half of all recurrences happen five or more years after a woman’s cancer is first diagnosed, and women face a 2 percent to 4 percent chance each year that a cancer might return.

The new study found that if the women took a different drug, letrozole (Femara), made by Novartis, after their five years of tamoxifen, they could cut that risk nearly in half.

After an average of 2.4 years after their tamoxifen treatment ended, 132 women who were taking placebos developed new breast cancer or recurrences, compared with 75 of the women taking letrozole, a 43 percent reduction in risk.

Agent’s Death Leads to Leftist Rebukes in Spanish Parliament

By Dale Fuchs

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID, SPAIN

Opposition party politicians sharply criticized the government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar on Thursday after the assassination of a Spanish intelligence agent, Jose Antonio Bernal Gomez, in Iraq.

The leader of the Catalanian Green Party, Joan Saura, called on Aznar to justify his strong support for the Iraq war before the national Parliament, echoing repeated appeals by the national opposition leader, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Rodriguez, the leader of the Socialist Party and its candidate for prime minister in the March national elections, has harped on the issue ever since accusations of manipulating intelligence reports began to shake the administration of Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain.

On Thursday, however, Rodriguez merely condemned the killing and expressed sympathy for the family of Bernal, leaving the harsh remarks to minor party lead-

ers like Saura of Catalonia.

“When news came to light the arms of mass destruction in Iraq was a lie, Bush interrupted his vacation, Blair appeared and gave explanations on the death of Kelly, but Aznar has refused to give explanations,” Saura told an audience on Thursday at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. “At the very least, there should have been a referendum on whether to go to war so that the population had the opportunity to express its opinion and decide.”

The Spanish prime minister lobbied to gain European support for what the media here call “Bush’s war,” and Aznar was the only representative of the so-called “Old Europe” to attend the decisive summit meeting between Blair and President Bush in the Azores, where the invasion plans were sealed.

Spaniards overwhelmingly opposed the war; media surveys at the time put the figure at 90 percent. Hundreds of thousands of Spaniards took to the streets in protests, which continued even after the invasion

was under way. Political pundits expected Aznar’s Popular Party to suffer in regional elections in May, but, after the war’s quick official end, the party managed to hold on to most of its seats in regional and municipal legislatures.

On announcing the decision to send troops to Iraq, Aznar said initially that they would serve “humanitarian” purposes. In a highly mocked statement, he had accused his political foes of “anxiously awaiting the body bags to start coming home” to prove their point. Spain has sent 1,300 soldiers to Iraq and leads the Plus Ultra Brigade in the Polish-controlled sector of the country, between Baghdad and Basra.

The critical reaction now is similar to that in August when a Spanish naval captain, Manuel Martin Oar, died in the bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad. Then, as now, the coordinator of the United Left party, Gaspar Llamazares, contended that Aznar’s high-profile support for Bush’s foreign policy “makes Spaniards more of a target.”

Turkey to Send Military Aid To Iraqi Soil, Despite Risks

By Craig S. Smith

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ANKARA, TURKEY

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey on Thursday brushed aside objections to his country’s decision to send thousands of soldiers to Iraq for the first time since Turkish troops were driven out of the former Ottoman territory in 1917.

“Turkish soldiers aren’t going there as a police or gendarme force,” Erdogan told reporters when asked about Iraqi protests to the plan. “Negative approaches to soldiers who go for happiness and tranquility can’t be accepted,” he said.

But Erdogan’s bravado belied

the grave risks his government faces with its gesture to support the U.S.-led effort in Iraq after spurning American requests for help during the war.

While Turkish troops would be the first from a Muslim country to join coalition forces in Iraq, they would not necessarily be welcomed there. Members of Iraq’s Governing Council have said that they don’t want any Turkish troops on Iraqi soil.

Nor is there much support for the plan at home: at least two-thirds of Turks oppose the troop deployment according to several recent polls.

“We are going somewhere that we are not welcome,” warned Inal Batu, a member of parliament from

the Republican People’s Party, or CHP, the country’s main opposition party. “There is an occupying force in Iraq, and if you send troops there, they will surely be a part of the existing occupying force.” On Tuesday, the Turkish parliament gave Erdogan’s government permission to decide whether or not to send troops for up to one year to help the American-led coalition. But the flip side of that mandate is that Erdogan’s ruling Justice and Development Party will bear all the blame if the deployment turns sour.

Turkish and American officials said the Turkish force could be anywhere from 6,000 to more than 10,000 strong and might arrive in Iraq as early as late November.

WEATHER

Winter is Coming... Just Not Yet

By Michael J. Ring

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Winter is drawing closer with each passing day, but with the spectacular weather we’ve enjoyed over the past few days, it’s easy to forget about the coming freeze. The dry weather and seasonable to warm temperatures — with highs in the 70s F over the past few days — have been perfect for outdoor activities.

We have an upper tropospheric trough currently centered over the Midwest to thank for this pleasant spell. It has been deflecting the jet southward across the United States, then northeastward along the coast. This southwesterly flow has brought the warm, dry air into our region.

The weather will generally stay pleasant over the next few days. As the trough passes over us later this weekend there may be a few weak showers, but otherwise we should continue to see partly sunny skies over the next few days. Temperatures won’t remain in the 70s F into next week, but will still hover around a seasonable 65°F (18°C) for highs.

And as for winter? Higher terrain in the Rockies might see some snow showers today as a cold front moves across the mountains. But we’ll have to wait a bit longer before seeing our first flurries.

Weekend Outlook

Today: Partly sunny and continued warm. High near 72°F (22°C).

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Lows near 55°F (13°C).

Saturday: Splendid weather continues, with partly sunny skies and a high near 70°F (21°C).

Saturday night: Mostly cloudy with a chance of a sprinkle toward dawn. Low near 57°F (14°C).

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Cooler with highs near 65°F (18°C). Lows near 55°F (13°C).

Monday: Clear with seasonable temperatures. High near 65°F (18°C).

Depression is a serious threat to anyone that has a brain.

DEPRESSION

Stealthy Snoopware Company Disturbs Web Privacy Experts

By John Schwartz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Earlier this year, Rick Eaton did something unusual in the world of high technology: He made his product weaker.

Eaton is the founder of a company, TrueActive, that makes a computer program that buyers can install on a target computer and monitor everything that the machine's user does on the PC.

Spying with software has been around for several years but Eaton decided that one new feature in his program crossed a line between monitoring and snooping. That feature is called "silent deploy," which allows the buyer to place the program on someone else's computer secretly via

e-mail, without having physical access to the machine. To Eaton, that constituted an invitation to install unethical and even illegal wiretaps. He made the change, he said, "so we could live with ourselves."

Such principles seem almost quaint in a market where the products seem to grow more powerful and intrusive all the time. Other makers of "snoopware" — as opposed to the software known as "spyware" that many businesses use to monitor the activities of Web site visitors and to send them pop-up ads — enthusiastically pitch their products' ability to be installed remotely. They typically skirt the ethical and legal issues with fig-leaf disclaimers and check-off boxes in which buyers promise not to

violate the law.

Privacy experts are not buying such arguments, however. Marc Rotenberg, who heads the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, contended that selling software that can tap people's communications without their knowledge violates the Electronic Privacy Communications Act.

Law enforcement officials seem to agree. According to Chris Johnson, a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles, the FBI recently launched an investigation in California into the maker of one program, LoverSpy, that advertises heavily via junk e-mail, or spam. LoverSpy promises to let buyers "Spy on Anyone by sending them an Email-Greeting Card!"

D.C. Sniper Attacks Suspect Will Plead Insanity at November Trial

By Adam Liptak
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Lawyers for Lee Boyd Malvo, the younger suspect in the Washington-area sniper attacks last fall, abruptly changed their strategy Thursday, arguing in a court filing that he is not guilty because he was insane at the time of the shootings.

The lawyers said Malvo, 18, had been subjected to extensive indoctrination by the other suspect, John Allen Muhammad, who is 42.

The notice reflected a risky tactical decision, one that will alter the dynamics and perhaps the timing of Malvo's trial, which is scheduled to begin on Nov. 10.

"I must confess we were quite surprised," said Robert F. Horan Jr.,

the commonwealth's attorney in Fairfax County, Va. He said he had reviewed a nine-page sealed report by a court-appointed mental health expert a month ago.

"There was nothing in that about insanity," Horan said of the report. "Apparently it's a late-blooming insanity."

Malvo's lawyers could not be reached, but they told reporters after a court hearing Thursday that they would rely on a different expert, the Associated Press reported.

They said that indoctrination is a form of mental illness that can in some cases be severe enough to amount to insanity.

In a separate development

Thursday, a judge barred Muhammad from presenting evidence about his own mental health because he has refused to meet with a prosecution psychiatrist. Muhammad's trial is scheduled to start on Tuesday.

Both trials were moved from the Washington suburbs in Northern Virginia to the Chesapeake Bay area in the southern part of the state. Malvo's trial was moved from Fairfax to Chesapeake; Muhammad's was moved from Manassas to Virginia Beach. They will share evidence and witnesses and may overlap.

But Thursday's developments mean that they may proceed in very different ways.

Colorful New \$20 Bill Released Into Circulation

COX NEWS SERVICE WASHINGTON

With the purchase of stamps at a capital post office, a newly redesigned and colorful \$20 bill was put into service Thursday.

The new note is the first in a series aimed at making counterfeiting more difficult.

James Brent of Haymarket, Va., holding his 3-year-old daughter Tyler, made the purchase on the first day banks can receive the new \$20 bill from the Federal Reserve. Symbolic first purchases were made at 30 other locations around the country.

The redesigned \$20 note is the most secure bill produced by the United States, said Brent, head of currency production for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

"Its enhanced security will help ensure that our currency continues to represent value, trust and confidence to people all over the world," he said.

The biggest change is the addition of subtle shades of green, peach and blue in the background, the first use of color on U.S. currency since 1905.

GE and Vivendi Agree on Terms Of NBC Universal Merger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

General Electric, owner of television's most profitable network, NBC, finalized its agreement on Wednesday to acquire the entertainment assets of Vivendi Universal in a deal that executives said would create a new entertainment conglomerate better able to compete with media giants like Viacom, Time Warner, the Walt Disney Co. and the News Corp.

The new entity, to be called NBC Universal, will be 80 percent owned by GE with Vivendi retaining the other 20 percent. Under the deal, which still awaits government approval, investors in the debt-laden Vivendi, which had conducted a widely publicized auction to divest itself of its movie, cable and television production holdings, will receive \$3.8 billion in cash through the issuance of about 125 million shares in GE stock. GE would also assume \$1.7 billion in debt. (Shares of GE closed down 53 cents, to \$30.20; the American depository receipts of Vivendi were down 4 cents, to \$19.17.)

NBC would add Universal's movie and television studios, theme parks, and three cable channels to its media assets, bringing a total value to the new enterprise that GE executives estimated at \$43 billion.

Robert Wright, the NBC chairman, who will become the chief executive of the new company, called it "without question" the most significant acquisition that NBC has ever made. "It is a smart strategic deal, and we think this business is positioned very well for the long term."

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OPINION

Get Out and Vote!

This is the first editorial of a two-part series on the Cambridge City Council elections. The second installment will feature The Tech's candidate endorsement.

Editorial

Want more out of the Cambridge government? Well, you have only five days left to do something about it because Wednesday is the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming Cambridge City Council elections. And if you live in Cambridge, even as a student, then you have a stake in them.

The Cambridge City Council deals with issues that affect not only businesses and corporations like MIT, but individuals; that means students, renters, bikers, and even fraternity members. The council, made up of just nine members of the Cambridge community, is responsible for setting policies, ordinances, taxes, and other expenditures that affect your life here in the city.

The City Council is responsible for the ban on smoking in all Cambridge workplaces, including bars and restaurants, and a March 2002 petition to the state to give 17-year-olds the right to vote in local elections. It has also passed legislation on rents, evictions, and zoning to help control residential rents in the city. In addition, they appoint the members of the Cambridge License Commission, with which many students are all too familiar.

Another key issue relevant to this community is the payment made in lieu of taxes to the city. As a non-profit institution, MIT is not required to pay property taxes, though both MIT and Harvard have been making these payments largely in compensation both for the benevolent use of existing land; but also for the recent acquisition by both universities of new prop-

erty that will lower Cambridge's tax income by a significant margin. These payments are agreed upon by negotiation with the city; it is important to have officials sympathetic to MIT on both sides of the bargaining table.

The councilors you elect in November will be deciding on new issues such as bicycle ordinances, limiting parking time on Memorial Drive, and resolving what they have termed the "housing emergency" in Cambridge. All of these issues have extreme relevance to MIT students and community members.

Registering to vote in Cambridge is not only easy, it costs you very little in terms of your voting rights at home. You only need re-register in your home state following the upcoming election. Massachusetts Voter Registration forms are available in the Public Service Center (4-104), the Office of Government and Community Relations (11-245), and in many dormitories. Fill it out and send it in before Oct. 15, and you will be eligible for the Nov. 4 election. Then just fill out and send in a National Voter Registration form (available at <http://www.fec.gov/votreg-is/vr.htm>) to re-register in your home state. Some candidates are currently running voter registration drives; for instance, MIT alum Matt DeBergalis '00 will provide and mail both forms for you through his campaign.

Even if you live on Amherst Street, the City Council can have a major impact on your life. This election is one where even a small group can be very influential. It only takes about 1,800 votes to elect a councilor; compare that to any state or national election you might vote in. Given the ease of registration and the weight of the issues at hand, there is no good reason not to get up and register right away.



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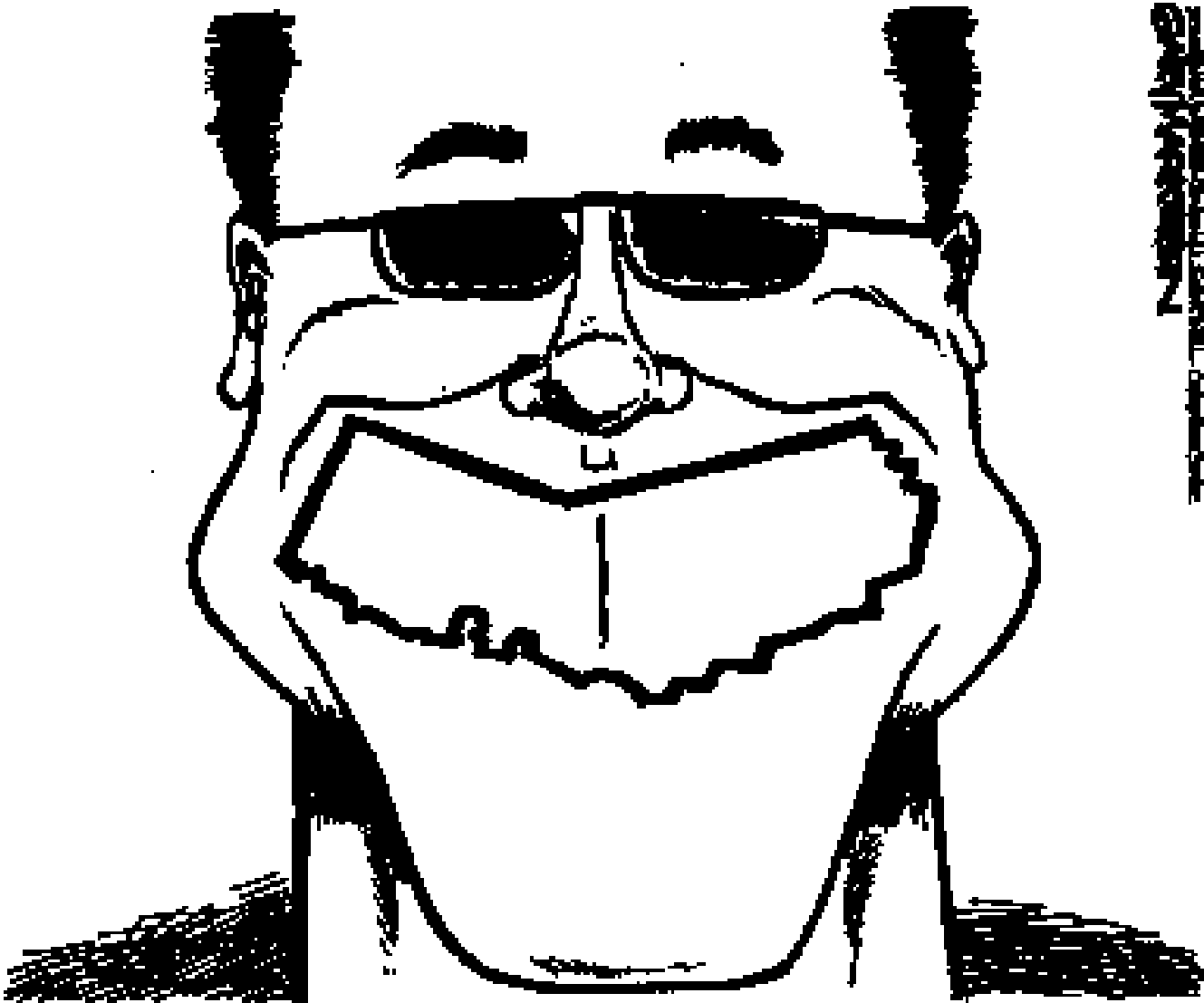
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Cartoon by Scott K. Smith

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Stereotypes and Censorship

Sandra M. Chung

People are entitled to believe what they want to believe, and for the most part they can say what they want to say. However, they are not entitled to endanger or restrict others without their consent or a very good reason. I like to think the MIT community is intelligent enough not to take anything in the ghetto party e-mail seriously, but I can't say that e-mail doesn't stir up a lot of ugly feelings and tense issues.

Set aside for now the fact that sexism, ageism, sizeism, and myriad other harmful -isms persist on this campus, and they receive much less attention than racism. Consistency in addressing such a nebulous problem as prejudice seems to be too much to ask. Because of the most recent uproar over affirmative action, racism is currently the most fashionable -ism to discuss. Any discussion of racism is a discussion of words. And any discussion of racist words involves stereotypes.

Words themselves have no power. People give words power by reacting to them. A "ghetto" is a section of a city occupied by a minority group, and "booty" is something pirates reap from a captured ship; yet a "ghetto booty" makes you think of something else entirely. Similarly, stereotypes are innocuous without the power of human prejudice. Nor are they merely an invention of prejudiced bigots. A stereotype is an abbreviation, a shortcut the brain takes because it thinks the general information is useful but it knows we don't have the time to learn every single detail about every single thing. Stereotypes can be useful; for example, when I'm alone at night in a deserted alleyway and a big guy in a hooded sweatshirt happens by and waves, I don't take the time to get to know him better before I make the reasonable conclusion that he's probably dangerous and that I should get the hell out of there. Stereotypes are not always baseless either: people who visit MIT expect to find that the students are good with computers. Stereotypes can help, and stereotypes can hurt. We can't function without stereotypes and yet there are times when we ought to do our best to ignore them.

Granted that stereotypes are hardwired into the human psyche, how can we express the distinctive qualities that make our population distinct, while avoiding the tendency of others to identify us by those traits? Who gets to choose which qualities we should be proud of, and which ones we should downplay? Should we stop listening to hip-hop, or for that matter any other music that can possibly be a nega-

tive depiction of a particular demographic group with a specific identity? Should I stop wearing my skimpy Pocahontas Halloween costume because no real Native American ever looked like that (and I don't have a single drop of Native American blood anyway)?

Can we filter information without suppressing voices? Can we have diversity without discrimination?

We're in the dangerous position of knowing what we want (a fair world), but not knowing quite how to get it. I can find a specific example of something that offends me, but I'd be hard pressed to come up with a law so well-worded that it specifically forbids the things that offend me without creating other problems or offending other people. And just because I don't want to hear it doesn't mean it

We're in the dangerous position of knowing what we want (a fair world), but not knowing quite how to get it.

shouldn't be said. To echo a point made by Margaret Cho last Friday, many of the statements that make me uncomfortable are the very ones that I need to hear because they reflect some element of truth that I must confront so that I can

accept it or endeavor to change it. The same thing may offend me and flatter you. If we banned everything that offended anybody, we'd be very ignorant, and very bored.

So no, censorship is not the answer. Censorship at any acceptable level is just a Band-Aid, a treatment for the symptoms and not a preventative measure, and it can cause more problems than it solves. For example, how do we determine which person or persons should have the power to impose his or her judgment on everyone else? Assuming a human being harbors no racial, political, or other bias is just as dangerous as believing that a scientist is perfectly objective. There is not a single "fact" in your head that has not been filtered through the minds of at least one, but probably thousands, of human beings with their own conscious and unconscious biases. Therefore, censoring the words is like trying to eradicate tuberculosis by treating the cough. The cough is a product of the illness; a real cure must not merely treat it, but prevent it.

Still, we turn to censorship and rule-making, because it's easier to police and legislate than to appreciate and respect each other. When something is offensive, the knee-jerk reaction is to say, "You can't do that." But knee-jerk reactions are no foundation for a stable, harmonious society. The only solution I can think of is to create a society of people who think about how their actions impact other people, who desire above all that those impacts not be harmful.

Sandra M. Chung '04 is secretary of Pangaea.

Opening: Department Of Humor

Michael Star

Chris Rock has an amazing routine that he performed on one of his comedy specials. Although I am sure anyone who has heard of Mr. Rock has heard this of this routine, I will give the bare bones of it. He announces, with his characteristic silly grin, that there are two different kinds of black people: regular black people, and then, the n-word. I am white, so I will refrain from using this word, but you all know it. He then goes on to explain the difference, which brings into play guns, 40-ounce bottles of malt liquor, and huge jewelry.

And it's hilarious. It's hilarious because, in the wise words of Homer, it's true. Chris Rock has seized upon the dual nature of the African-American community: the real people that you know at school and work with, and the people you see on MTV, BET, and other media outlets that propagate this gangsta culture. You have celebrities such as Condoleeza Rice, Colin Powell, Danny Glover, Russell Simmons, and Sidney Poitier. Their behavior is opposed to the ubiquitous presence of such personalities as Nelly, Snoop Dogg, Birdman, Redman, Old Dirty Bastard. These men project an American Black culture full of hedonism, materialism, and substance abuse. The point is this dichotomy seen in the media with its extreme polarity is quite funny. Chris Rock is funny. And people of all races laughed at his joke.

Last week, in the same vein of this joke, a certain floor of a certain dorm decided to hold a ghetto party. The description of this party had references to robbery, alcoholism, and the general level of dirtiness that does, indeed, reflect the poor state of many of America's urban centers. Anyone who would claim that we don't have a pretty large urban poverty problem is just plain lying. I did not even hear of this party until I received the blanket condemnation of said party issued forth from Chuck Vest's office. And I was flabbergasted.

Aside for all of the free-speech guidelines being discarded, all I could think was: Where is this man's sense of humor? I tried to imagine what, exactly, was going through President Vest's head when he first received the offending e-mail. I can picture him sitting in his office, licking his chops in anticipation of the hundreds of responses to this terribly offensive e-mail that he would be receiving from students in the forms of protests, boycotts, and diversity discussions to be organized to deal with this catastrophic event. After all, that is what happened a few weeks ago at Duke University in response to a very similar event. And why shouldn't MIT be like other politically-correct institutions of higher learning? To his imagined disappointment, all he received were complaints from multiple members of the lists to which the advertisement was sent.

The stress is not the quantity of the response, but the quality; in the 1960s during

the Civil Rights movement, there were real issues at hand, and real action was taken, especially on campuses, by the inspired students of that era. The fact is, most people on this campus, unlike at Duke, are smart enough to recognize the satirical humor in such an e-mail. Other than from the UA president and vice president, there has been no formal student response that I have heard of. I feel that the consensus on campus is one of, well, laughter.

The UA president claims this party invitation was not a satire, but more along the lines of an insult or hate speech, and tells a parable about a problem within a family with a wayward family member, and the unhelpfulness of neighborhood involvement in this private, familial affair. This metaphor is faulty, however, because the problem in our society is one that touches everyone and is a neighborhood issue, indeed. The urban problem in America, although it affects some of us more than others, is a problem of American society and not just one racial community. The letter, according to students I have talked to from the offending floor of the dorm, was a satire.

And satire is healthy. Jewish comedians have always joked about certain qualities within the American Jewish community such as unnecessary guilt, nervousness, and spend-thriftiness. Obese comedians make fun of America's huge obesity problem. And, although I missed her at MIT, I have heard that Margaret Cho act is partly a satire of Asian culture in America. Yet these are direct examples of more personal idiosyncrasies within cultural groups in America. Chris Rock's satire is not so much of black culture, as it is of our society's perception of black culture. There is historical precedent for this form of humor. Mark Twain, for example, developed his character Jim in the novel Huckleberry Finn to be a satire of the white American perception of black Americans. And not to give the residents of that certain floor in a certain dorm too much credit, but their joke was one in this tradition.

As I write this, the administration is taking action against these students, whose names were handed over by their GRT. In the name of all that is sacred and humorous at this school, we, the MIT community, cannot allow the administration to have such an over-bearing hand in what can and cannot be sent by e-mail, or other forms of communication. The UA president and vice president claim that this is not a censorship issue, but it absolutely is. They are attempting prior restraint on a topic they find offensive. I not only invoke the First Amendment, but also the slippery slope that is being built in this case against our peers. We cannot, obviously, make up for the administrations lacking in the sense-of-humor department, but we can draw a line to where they can define what are acceptable and unacceptable forms of humor, and stand up for our right to be funny.

Michael Star is a member of the class of 2006.

A Message from the UA President and Vice President

Pius Uzamere and Jacob Faber

As MIT undergraduates, you are part of the Undergraduate Association and so we feel that as your President and Vice President, it is

Letter our duty to inform you about our personal positions on an incident which has occurred on our campus and has affected the social climate amongst us.

On Thursday, October 2, 2003, a group of students held a party entitled "Ghetto Party." Although this party was held on a wing of their dormitory, this was by no means a party held by their dorm as a whole, but rather by a small number of students. Some of these students wrote emails to public lists advertising this party. In describing the theme of this party, the senders made extensive reference to extremely negative stereotypes of certain cultural groups.

The behavior exemplified in this incident — heavily reinforcing negative cultural and socioeconomic stereotypes and publicly portraying members of other races as dirty, irresponsible, and violent, for example — is deleterious to the MIT community at large. Perpetuating negative stereotypes about certain races, cultures, genders, and other socioeconomic groups is strongly against the spirit of community that we strive for at MIT. It is impossible for serious academic work to be done, for true collaboration to be had, or for productive lives to be lived in a community that is lacking in basic levels of mutual trust,

respect, and purpose. Whatever the intentions of the author(s), the "Ghetto Party" concept and advertising did not manifest as harmless fun, but rather as a destructive influence on the basic footing upon which the success of our community rests.

It is tempting for those who do not belong to the referenced affinity groups to dismiss highly objectionable content such as the "Ghetto Party" advertisement as mere satire. This is understandable, as issues of racism and classism are hard topics for most people to swallow. Unfortunately, an argument of this sort ignores the fact that satire is completely contextual. Consider two siblings who jokingly chide each other privately about a wayward family member. Now consider their next door neighbor who publicly mocks and derisively imitates that family member within the confines of their neighborhood. When the family members are talking to each other in private, the chiding is harmless; when the outsider, the neighbor, does it in public, the mockery becomes hurtful and offensive. It becomes very difficult for the family to remain in the neighborhood and maintain its dignity and self-respect.

Jacob and I have heard reference made to the differing effects that epithets have on different generations. In the wake of President Vest's email regarding this issue, there have been some who have implied that perhaps the MIT administration is simply too easily offended. Those who are somehow skeptical about whether or not this particular email hurt anyone should know that multiple members of the lists to which the advertisement was sent

have indicated that they found the email to be quite offensive and hurtful. Indeed, if this advertisement were truly funny and did not cause any real problems, then why did the affected recipients of this email not feel comfortable approaching their fellow students directly to discuss the issue? It is unfortunate that these students were trapped in an extremely disquieting situation just so that a few students could provide the theme for a party.

With respect to the generational issues that actually do exist, it is clear that the United States and MIT of 2003 are not the same as they were in 1963. We have come a long way and race relations have clearly improved a great deal. Despite this, it appears that the social mores and taboos in place now lead to a dangerous condition — one where racism is subtle and taken for granted. In today's world, racism, classism, and sexism are usually not apparent from what people shout from the rooftops. Rather, it is what people say to their friends in casual discussion, how they act with their friends in private, and the things they do without thinking about the impact on others that give prejudices the chance to manifest themselves.

We should not be as concerned about the ranting lunatic who burns crosses in backyards as much as we should be concerned about the intelligent college student who has no qualms about "innocently" joking with his or her friends about "ghetto niggas" who drink malt liquor and loot their neighbors, for it is the words of the student and not those of the overt, radically racist lunatic that perpetuate the venomous feelings about many groups

in this country. Practically everyone recognizes and rejects the blatantly hateful messages that the lunatic peddles. Thus the ugly rhetoric used, perhaps inadvertently, in this seemingly more innocuous context is most damaging because it is deemed *acceptable* by popular acclamation of all those who keep quiet when it passes by their ears.

We should make it clear that this is not a censorship issue. The right to free speech is not in question here. However, each and every student at MIT has a vested interest in seeing that the community standards of openness and diversity are upheld so that all of us may feel safe and secure in our right to contribute to the world-class academic environment of which we are a part. It must be emphasized that once a communication leaves a small group and enters the open forum that is MIT, the applicable community standards are not merely those of a group of friends or a dormitory; the authors have a responsibility to respect the standards of the entire MIT community.

As two black students, Jacob and I were outraged at and insulted by the attitudes and overtones of this email. More importantly though, as leaders of the undergraduate community, we were disappointed and disturbed. The effect that such an email can have on the collective psyche of students who lay their eyes upon it is staggering. This issue affects every student at MIT, no matter what their race or class. We would expect that any capable leaders in our positions would take a

Blowin’ in the Wind

In the Dean’s Corner

Larry Benedict

We lived in a condominium once. Seemed like a good idea at the time: no trash to haul, no stairs or walkway to shovel in the winter time, no outdoor maintenance. The “Association” took care of all that.

When we actually bought it, we got a deed, about a page long, and an Association Manual, about 50 pages long. The manual was part of the deal and told us all the things we could and we couldn’t do, though mostly the latter. We couldn’t plant flowers next to our walkway, or put lawn furniture on the grass behind our patio, or put anything up like a volleyball net. We couldn’t swim in the pool before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. during the summer. We couldn’t put anything on our front door (let alone paint it red, which my wife wanted to do). We could hang nothing on the patio or the building itself, and we could put nothing in our windows, either outside or inside.

These were the rules. It was part of living in this particular community. For a while, living in that community was novel and comfortable, but as time wore on, it became too restrictive for us and we moved.

Many residential communities have rules. They’re not always popular, but they are the rules. Recently a controversy has arisen on campus over a student wanting to hang a flag outside his residence hall room. MIT’s housing office has a rule that a student may not hang anything outside his or her room: laundry, blankets, banners, and flags to name a few. There are a number of reasons for this rule ranging from the purely aesthetic to the safety issue. For example, a large banner framed with wooden supports might fall and injure someone.

This is not a free speech issue as some have tried to frame it, but rather a landlord/tenant and community issue. As one of my staff noted, “It is important to separate important philosophical and political matters worthy of serious discussion in an educational community from fairly simple safety concerns. As an expression of personal or political freedom, the statement embodied by a flag is made regardless of whether it is posted in front of or behind the glass of a room window.”

MIT does allow certain posters or banners to be hung outside a residence hall with prior permission. The process requires that a banner be hung in such a way that it will not fall down or blow away, thereby posing a safety hazard. It also requires that it be there for a specified period of time only, and then taken down.

Not all rules are popular with everyone and this rule is no exception. Rules at MIT are reviewed from time to time with student input, and perhaps it is time to review this rule again.

In the meantime, the rule stands. It has been pointed out that at least one residence hall, flags have been allowed to hang outside a window. That is true of the past but no longer. The policy is now being evenly enforced to be fair to everyone.

Larry Benedict is Dean for Student Life.

Philip Burrowes

Recently, two international industry leaders revealed what they hoped would be their inroads to the domination of yet another market. Sony announced the PSX, which tacks on hard disk space, TV tuner (yawn), DVD burner, built-in ethernet capabilities and about \$500, to a Playstation 2. Nokia in turn released the N-Gage, which encases a portable gaming console, radio (yawn), and MP3/.AAC music player, around a mobile phone for, well, about the price of a Nokia cell phone. Both products are the result of growing support for developing “digital hubs,” a trend that doesn’t show signs of stopping despite the absence of much successful implementation. Where before companies had seemed content to market several complementary or even slightly competing machines to disparate audiences, now they patch devices together to create Frankensteins of machines in the hope of, if not pleasing everyone, convincing us all to want even more things than we could really use.

Once wannabe thugs acted bemused by post-preppies and their PDAs, while they themselves hoarded platinum (colored) two-ways. Console

Uzamere, Faber Respond

UA, from Page 5

strong stance on this matter.

Incidents that contribute to a pervasive, unsafe environment for large segments of the MIT community are of an extremely serious nature and must be investigated at the Institute level. Too often, incidents like these are brushed off and marginalized. Any response that does not recognize the gravity of this situation and treat it accordingly is completely inappropriate. Although it is critical to the welfare of the Undergraduate Association at large that this issue is resolved in an appropriate manner, the UA is not a disciplinary body. MIT has well-defined judicial and disciplinary processes and these must be applied fairly and in a timely manner. Expulsion of the students

found to be culpable is certainly not an answer, but neither is simply having them write “I will not use racial slurs” 500 times on a chalkboard. It must be made clear to the campus and to the students that cultural intimidation on this campus in *any* form is utterly unacceptable. While everyone makes mistakes, at some point, individuals must be held accountable for their actions.

Let it be said now: this incident will test the mettle of each and every one of us. We must not allow this situation to divide the Undergraduate Association. Our student body is the smartest, hardest-working group of students in the world. Jacob and I are confident that all of us can unite as members of the Undergraduate Association and work together to take advantage of this opportunity to make

steps towards addressing the underlying social issues on our campus. In this regard, we are in the process of leading the UA towards engaging in constructive, campus-wide discussion on the implications of this and other racial incidents that have occurred on our campus. Jacob and I feel that a continuing dialogue on how we can reap the benefits of our diversity in combination with due diligence paid to the serious investigation of incidents that threaten the harmony on our campus will lead to bountiful results; these elements are of critical importance as we continue to make MIT a wonderful place for brilliant students of all backgrounds to live and work.

Pius A. Uzamere II '04 and Jacob W. Faber '04 are the Undergraduate Association president and vice president.

A Flag That Won’t Go Away

Maxim Shusteff

As I watch the controversy surrounding Jonathan Goler’s Israeli flag continue to develop, I am left with one major question: what is the message that MIT’s administration wants to send? Two likely answers suggest themselves, neither painting MIT in a good light.

The first possibility is that MIT Housing is simply trying to assert control over an unexpectedly difficult situation. It’s clear that Mr. Goler’s strong resistance to the demands to take down his flag was unanticipated, and this has led Housing to impose extreme and blindly authoritarian measures to enforce its decision so that it doesn’t appear weak and ineffective. Subsequent arguments by Housing, and suddenly scrupulous enforcement of a campus-wide “no flags” rule are all part of the package. This is what *The Tech’s* editorial of Sept. 26 [“Flags and Freedom”] referred to as the “quick-fix” method of dealing with the situation, and rightly condemned this ill-advised approach.

This is most likely why such easy and immediate support for Mr. Goler has emerged among students, who see this as an example of the administration using a very blunt tool to solve a minor problem that requires delicacy and finesse. While Housing can make and enforce reasonable rules in the interests of safety and building integrity, students see this particular situation for what it is: a wrong-headed effort to exercise authority that has turned into a broadly-applied limitation on students’ rights to self-expression. This doesn’t speak well for MIT Housing’s ability to make good decisions because it suggests that the message administrators are trying to send is: “We make the rules around here, and everyone had better follow them.” But this is not nearly the whole story.

As *The Tech* noted, to most campus observers “the issue at hand is not the politics of Israel.” Indeed, Housing officials have claimed that this is not censorship, and what truly concerns them is safety. Even if we give them the benefit of the doubt, such a position ignores a crucial detail to which Housing attributes no importance, but which makes all the difference in this case. This detail has surfaced every time S-P Assistant Housemaster Keith Hampton has been interviewed, such as when he admitted to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that the entire affair began when a group of students came to him to complain that the Israeli flag was offensive to them and “interfered with their abil-

ity to enjoy the use of the courtyard.”

I can only assume that the students must have been referring to the chronic neck pains they suffered as a result of continually craning their necks up to stare with derision at Mr. Goler’s flag hanging nine stories above. In all seriousness, however, what is particularly appalling is that Mr. Hampton proceeded to ask Mr. Goler to remove his flag for exactly this reason, citing the bigoted complaint to him and actually suggesting that it was a legitimate reason to request the flag’s removal.

Only after Mr. Goler’s pointed refusal to comply with this gross display of intolerance was a “fire safety” issue cited. Then, up through the chain of authority in MIT Housing, various individuals threw a string of ever-changing “rules” at Mr. Goler, including fire codes that his flag turned out not to violate, publicity policies that were inapplicable, and approval procedures that never happened for other flags on campus. Housing Director Karen Nilsson finally settled on calling the flag an “unauthorized alteration to the physical condition of the building.” She continues to emphasize the fact that such modifications jeopardize the structural integrity of the building and actually expects us to take seriously the idea that a flag might potentially damage the building by “banging” against it, and poses a safety hazard because it might fall from the building and land on someone. Yes, that’s right.

The conclusion is blindingly obvious: Ms. Nilsson and the rest of MIT Housing insist on this patently absurd explanation because they are unwilling to break ranks on Mr. Hampton’s initial move against the flag. It is understandable that Housing would seek to present a unified front on flag policy, and to support one of its own officials. However, this cannot be done across the board and in all cases. What Mr. Hampton did by bringing the complaint to Mr. Goler and giving it his official sanction was at best exceedingly thoughtless, and at worst downright bigoted. If he had asked that the flag be removed purely for safety reasons, without mentioning the complaint, Mr. Goler would be hard-pressed to prove political censorship, and Housing would have a rock-solid case. However, because Mr. Hampton openly stated, both to Mr. Goler and to various media outlets, that someone had objected to the flag, he did exactly the wrong thing: he brought politics into the picture.

That is the key point on which everything rests, and that is why this whole affair is indeed about the politics of Israel. No matter how hard

anyone tries, Mr. Hampton’s initial mistake cannot be undone — politics is irreversibly attached. By supporting Mr. Hampton’s stance against Mr. Goler’s flag, while doing nothing to acknowledge the problematic nature of the original complaint, MIT Housing, with Ms. Nilsson at the fore, grants legitimacy to intolerance and political censorship.

It is precisely for this reason that Mr. Goler is resisting so forcefully. He is doing this because the underlying reason for the controversy with his flag is not being addressed, and instead we are forced to witness a farce in which several square feet of fabric present physical dangers to a nine-story building. It is because this whole situation encourages other bigots to go around screaming abusive epithets outside other windows with Israeli flags in them, shouting that Zionism is racism and that some white sheets would go well with those flags.

Exactly this happened two weeks ago at Bexley, where two Israeli flags have been hanging for years. Rather than allow the Bexley flags to continue hanging, thereby lessening the power of such naked expressions of hatred, Ms. Nilsson has instead set her sights on these flags as well, in her crusade to bring down any and all flags. To those who harbor such hatred for the sight of any nation’s flags, MIT is saying: “We would rather stifle political expression, than offend your twist-ed sensibilities.”

I am sure that this is *not* a message that MIT wants to send. This is not a manifestation of a “community [that] draws strength and joy from its diversity” and has “a broad tolerance for speech, humor and thought,” as President Vest wrote a few days ago in a message to students. In order to affirm MIT’s commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive environment, the right thing for the administration to do is to drop the matter immediately, and allow the flying of flags from windows. A reprimand to Mr. Hampton for his inappropriate handling of the situation would also be a constructive move.

Unfortunately, the longer MIT Housing maintains their untenable position, the more difficult it becomes to admit to mistakes, and reverse their course. If no one in Housing has the good sense and vision to do this, let us hope that such good sense can be found at some higher level within the administration. If not, we will witness a victory for bigots at MIT.

Maxim Shusteff is a graduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

tendo has a wireless add-on for the Gameboy Advance, and Sony’s portable device probably will too. Apple’s iPod has slowly been moving into PDA territory with each iteration, and already comes in a customized version for cars. Dell is muscling in on Gateway’s non-computer consumer items. Will this new drive toward technological convergence have any profound effect on our non-digital life? Look no further than something as mundane as floss; Aquafresh is currently promoting the Floss ‘n’ Cap, i.e. a tube of toothpaste with floss attached. It would be a stretch to say the developments are related, but the underlying result is the same. Grafting more capabilities into a smaller area might be great for space, but it ultimately does little to make our lives easier. Sometimes, it may make our lives more burdensome. Just as you might not want to throw away a Floss ‘n’ Cap if your toothpaste runs out but your floss doesn’t, what do you do when one component of the digital hub reaches obsolescence — your PSX won’t play “PS3” games — while the others remain functional?

Unless, you know, you’re into circumventing Digital Rights Management, ’cause that’s pretty cool.

Mustmayostardoyonnaise

geeks and computer nerds were constantly locked in debates over who has the better port of the FPS-du-jour. “Internet radio” did well until the recording industry made it financially prohibitive, at the same time it was monopolizing our actual dials. However, now phones masquerade as cameras. Digital photo cameras retain video recording capabilities. Digital video cameras effectively become hard drives for computer-based editing. With software like iChat A/V or MSN Messenger 6, those computers are promoted as telephony devices. “Innovation,” it seems, takes us full circle.

The financial appeal to businesses is obvious: tap two theretofore mutually exclusive markets, and all of a sudden you’re the leader in one market. For the consumer, however, the utility of these amalgams is not so clear. We were being told that it was important to have color cell phones before we knew we had black and white ones. Digital cameras, while exceedingly easy to use, remind us that most of our pictures are just as boring whether developed or downloaded. Firewire existed for years before the proliferation of DVD burners enabled a new generation of shoddy home movies. As for computerized video/telephony, the small percentage of people who are capable of using it

are often reduced to searching online directories to find a stranger capable of connecting to.

Yet such endeavors press on, albeit with varying success. Alienware produces PCs dedicated to gaming, while Microsoft’s X-Box promised to bring the PC experience to the home console. Tablet PCs are simultaneously peripheral devices and computers in their own right. Gateway sells plasma screens as both TVs and monitors, while DVRs/PVRs are available for out-of-the-box (i.e. non-hacked) integration with computers.

Certainly we have had such integration before. Leaf through any Sharper Image catalog and you will find a host of ginchy-looking combo widgets. Or how about the legion of failed Apple initiatives that mirror the “novel” items of today: Pippin@World=X-Box, eMate=TabletPC, Macintosh TV=Windows Media Center? How about WebTV, the 64DD, Phillips’ CD-i; the list goes on and on. Does modernity’s long-standing commodification of the “cutting edge” suggest we’re not merely witnessing a series of scattered attempts at fabricating fads?

Quite simply, industry rivals are following each other already to these nascent markets despite lack of proof that they truly exist. Nin-

FEATURES

Ask
Nutty B

By Nutty B
COLUMNIST

Nutty B is currently a graduate student at MIT. Please e-mail him with whatever question you would like someone to listen to, and help him have an excuse to procrastinate at 3:00 a.m. Please send all questions to askNuttyB@yahoo.com.

Dear Nutty B,

Are the questions you get real? Do you really have real people asking you problems of their life? How do you manage to get so many questions?

—Curious

Dear Curious,

I am going to answer your question with one question: Are you real?

If you are, then I am sure I just answered your question! If you aren't, then perhaps I am really insane and imaging this whole conversation.

I have no idea how I manage to get so many questions. My charm, perhaps? You would be surprised to see how many people seek advice from others but are too shy to ask. I am here to help not only because I am darn good at it, but also because I am still redeeming my homeless-doughnut-taking sin!

Anyway, you can sleep peacefully now knowing I am not insane!

Dear Nutty B,

I am a graduate student here at MIT, and I have a small dilemma: I hate research! I guess you could say that I didn't exactly know what I was getting into when I decided to go to graduate school. I've grown to love the lifestyle, however, and I'm thoroughly enjoying my just-above-poverty-level stipend. I've taken to surfing the Internet all day at work and so far my advisor hasn't noticed. The checks arrive on time in my bank account every month, and I can't say that I object.

My question to you is this: should I feel guilty for robbing a world-class institution such as MIT of their precious dollars? I would get another job, but this deal is just too sweet.

—Slowing the Losing of Alacrity for Critical Knowledge in Engineering Research

Dear Slowing the Losing of Alacrity for Critical Knowledge in Engineering Research,

What a long name! Did you find it from the Internet, too?

Are you robbing MIT? No. It's not MIT you are robbing. It's the poor undergrads! They have been the ones faithfully (but unwillingly) paying their tuitions so that MIT has the money to pay for your Internet browsing and beer drinking. You better start booking your confession session in your church/temple/etc. now and be nice to those dreamy-eyed undergrads in the Infinite corridor from now on!

Whether there is something really wrong with you depends on what stage of grad studies you are in now. If you just started and haven't started to like the torture... I mean research, then it's no big deal! Most people in their first year don't even know for which advisor they are going to work.

On the other hand, if you have been here for ten years and still just go to your office everyday to browse the Web, then perhaps you should worry.

A degree from MIT is highly desirable, but it's not for everyone, and there is nothing wrong with not getting a degree from MIT. What's the point of staying here if no one is doing what you want to do or you don't like what you do?

It does take time to find your passion in life, but once you find it, stick with it. If you are still searching for it, then explore all possibilities. Don't just settle for an okay-paying job if this is the only reason you are here. There are tons of others: pimping for instance.

Go find your real dream and make sure to see it through when you find it. Remember this: the admissions committee chose you not only because they trusted your ability to be a scientist, but also your ability to be a good decision maker!



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Miscellaneous Institute Trivia

By Brian Loux
FEATURES EDITOR

The Engineer's Drinking Song

1. "The Engineers Drinking Song" originally came to MIT through the Georgia Tech fight song, "The Rambling Wreck from Georgia Tech." That song was developed from the English drinking song "The Son of a Gambolier" by bandmaster Michael Greenblatt in 1910, though the lyrics themselves were officially established in the school's yearbook in 1908.

I'm a Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech, and a hell of an engineer.

A helluva, helluva, helluva, helluva, helluva Engineer.

Like all the jolly good fellows, I drink my whiskey clear.

I'm a Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech

and a hell of an engineer.

2. The MIT version of the song was widely known on campus and appeared in the MIT songbook for over half a century, but was never part of any campus singing group's repertoire. It was first arranged for a four-part chorus in 1980 by MIT Chorollaries member David Bass ScD '83. The Chorollaries now perform the song at every concert.

We are, we are, we are, we are, we are the Engineers.

We can, we can, we can, we can, demolish forty beers.

Drink rum, drink rum, drink rum all day, and come along with us,

'Cause we don't give a damn for any old man who don't give a damn for us!

(Sources: <http://ramblinwreck.ocsn.com/trads/>

geot-trads.html, interview with David Bass)

3. Creating your own verses to the song is a long-standing tradition at MIT. Residents of Burton Suite 141 of the Burton-Conner dormitory created this and other verses in 1995 to honor the women on the floor:

We are the girls who sing and dance and drink on Burton One.

Tequila shots to rum and coke, we do it all for fun.

But sometimes when we start to drink, we tend to draw a crowd.

So we hang up bras and put up signs: No Penises Allowed!

(Source: <http://web.mit.edu/burton1/www/suites/141/141old.html>)

Issel Lim contributed to the research of this column.





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Pledge Numbers Stay Constant

Rush, from Page 1

member of Theta Chi, said that he thought Rush should occur during freshman orientation.

Rush chairs and fraternity members did not report any unusual trends this year with their freshmen pledge numbers.

Both Iida and Nathan J. Ackerman '04, rush chair for Alpha Tau Omega, said that they did not see anything unusual or different this year compared to last year.

Daniel D. Kim '04, rush chair for Sigma Chi, said that although freshmen were less "cliquey" this year than last year, they still tended to rush with groups of friends.

Kim said freshmen were less cliquey this year probably because Rush was earlier, and freshmen had not yet had time to form as many friendships.

Eric B. Dementhon '07, who pledged at Chi Phi, said that he pledged where many of his friends did and trusted their judgment on where to pledge because he had not had time to rush Chi Phi.

Ackerman, Iida, and Kim said that freshmen were looking for the same things in fraternities that they always look for, such as a fraternity that has members with similar personalities and a place that feels like home.

Some want minor changes

Many students said that Rush should take place earlier in the year.

Ackerman said that this year was an "improvement over last year" because it took place earlier, before exams and problem sets began to pile up. He said that ultimately Rush should be "as early as possible."

Jeff D. Moore '07 participated in Rush, but did not pledge a fraternity because of concerns over his workload.

Xin L. Huang '07, who also rushed but did not pledge, said that he "did not have too much time to go frat hopping" during Rush because of the heavy load of schoolwork.

Iida said that this year's Rush allowed "more time for interaction" among freshmen and fraternity members.

Dementhon said that Rush should be longer to give people a chance to find out more about the different fraternities.

Adam J. Gibbons '05, rush chair for Lambda Chi Alpha, said that Rush should not be changed because the system is "pretty good." He said keeping the procedure consistent will allow fraternities to get used to it, and to come up with better ways to recruit freshmen.

Fraternities will survive financially

David N. Rogers, the assistant dean and director of fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, said that just because a house did not get many pledges this

year does not mean that it will suffer financially. Some fraternities with low pledge counts still have large populations of upperclassmen who can fill the house.

He said if a house were to be in trouble financially, the Office of FSILGs would work with the current members and the alumni of the house to cut costs and figure out new recruitment methods.

Rogers added that students can pledge after Rush is over. Fraternities can offer bids after Rush and recruit all year long, especially during spring recruitment.

MIT is currently in the second year of a three-year-long financial subsidy program through which MIT reimburses FSILGs with a certain percentage of money for every empty bed. The plan was designed to safeguard FSILGs against the possible financial blows that could result from the new policy established last year that requires all freshmen to live in on-campus housing.

Rogers said that he has not heard of any complications with the program, and the extra cash should not go into a house's budget, but rather should be thought of as "gravy."

Kim said that Sigma Chi did well enough to survive until next year and that the subsidy program offered by MIT is "fairly helpful." Sigma Chi received thirteen new pledges this year.

Gibbons said that while LCA definitely did well enough to survive, the subsidy program does "not nearly do enough to be helpful." Also, he said that MIT "could have done more than that."

Gibbons said that LCA does "not rely on [the subsidy program] for survival at all." LCA received six new pledges this year.

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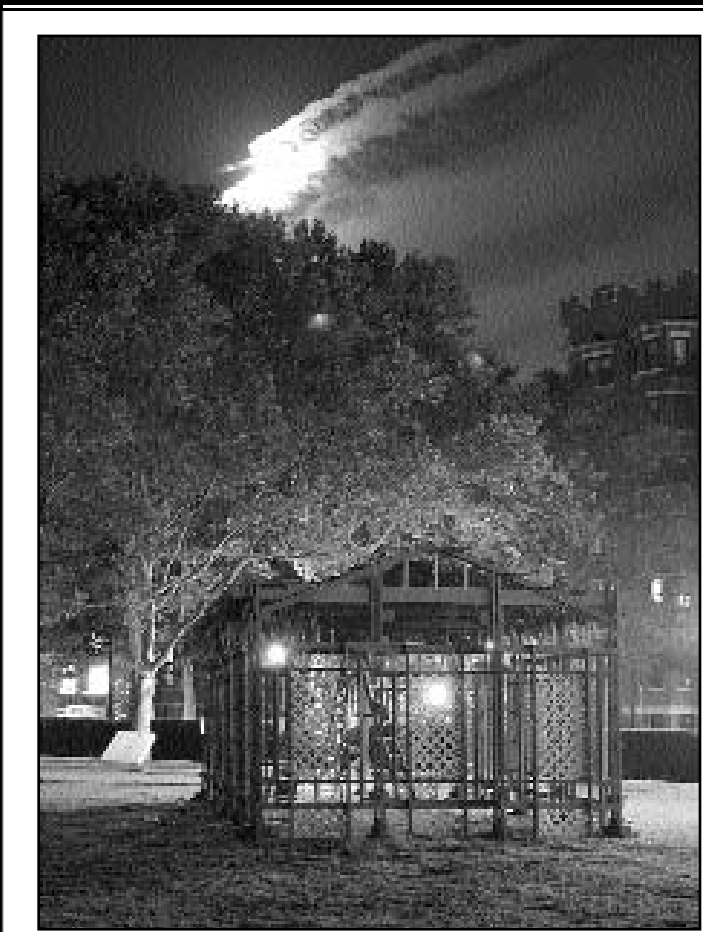
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BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

A nearly-full moon illuminates the sky above a sukkah on Kresge oval. The structure is constructed annually by MIT Hillel in celebration of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.

April 1983


April 1983


Elizabeth Smith

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UA Goals Checklist

Communication: Any student government that wants to be effective needs to have good communication with many entities and the UA is no exception. We will improve communication.

Goal	Current Progress	Target Completion Date	Contact
UA Q&A: Institute a question and answer column in <i>The Tech</i> (http://www-tech.mit.edu/).	Column published each week answering questions sent to uaqa@mit.edu .	Completed and continuing.	Written by Rose Grabowski - Senate Vice Chair and Harel Williams - Committee on Student Life Chair (uaqa@mit.edu).
Establish Boston Globe contact: Develop relationship with reporter(s) at the Boston Globe in the interest of improving external communication.	None	Mid-November	Pius Uzamere (ua-president@mit.edu), Jacob Faber (ua-vp@mit.edu)
Enhance Role of Public Relations Committee: Expand Public Relations committee in the interest of improving internal information.	Appointed new chairs, actively recruiting new members.	Early November	Pius Uzamere (ua-president@mit.edu), PR Chairs (ua-pr-chairs@mit.edu)
Enhance Role of Nominations Committee: Expand Nominations committee to appoint undergraduates to UA, Presidential, Faculty, and Institute Committees.	Appointing new chairs, actively recruiting new members.	Early November	Ling Wong (ua-speaker@mit.edu), Rose Grabowski (ua-vicechair@mit.edu)
Utilize MITV: Broadcast UA events, such as Cabinet and Senate meetings on MITV (channel 36).	Talking with members of MITV, MITV repairing equipment	Early December	Pius Uzamere (ua-president@mit.edu)
Archive Cabinet and Senate meetings: Place such meetings in an online archive, on the UA Server.	Shopping for server and digital video recorder.	Late November	Harel Williams (ua-csl-chairs@mit.edu)
Plasma displays: Purchase digital displays to install around campus. These displays would present information and news regarding the UA, ASA, and ASA recognized groups.	Shopping for displays and meeting with relevant campus parties.	End of December	Jacob Faber (ua-vp@mit.edu), Ling Wong (ua-speaker@mit.edu), Harel Williams (ua-csl-chairs@mit.edu), John Velasco - UA Treasurer (ua-treasurer@mit.edu)
Boston Intercollegiate Government: Establish contact with area college representatives in order to communicate common issues and build an effective student political lobby.	MIT has delegates on BIG, and has made a financial commitment to the organization. BIG's Web site is located at http://bostonstudents.com	Completed and continuing	Jacob Faber (ua-vp@mit.edu), John Velasco (ua-treasurer@mit.edu)
"DormStorm": Host dinner discussions with UA members and dorm residents in Pritchett, McCormick, Baker, Next, and Simmons dining facilities.	Discussing best format for the discussions	Early November	Pius Uzamere (ua-president@mit.edu), Jacob Faber (ua-vp@mit.edu)
Written Evaluation of Pass/No Record Changes: A written report on the effects of removing Pass/No Record from the second term of freshman year. Data on how the policy change affected the grades, course loads, and extracurricular activities of freshmen will be collected and analyzed.	Planning within the Student Committee on Educational Policy.	March 2004	SCEP (ua-scep-chairs@mit.edu)
Student Center Live News Display: Place on the first floor of the Student Center screens and/or tickers that will continuously show live news channels. The purpose of this project is to help MIT students be more aware of current events.	Will be obtaining approval from Campus Activities Complex, researching various displays, gathering funds, and arranging for installation.	January 2004	Nikhil Nadkarni - Baker Senator (nikhiln@mit.edu)
Monitoring Speeds on Amherst Alley: Assess whether or not there is a need to better monitor vehicle speeds on Amherst Alley, and if there is such a need, look into possible solutions.	Figure out if speeding on Amherst Alley is a real problem that needs to be addressed, via one or more of the following methods: formally survey students, talk to MIT Police, and/or informal dialogue with members of the MIT community. If it seems there is a need, try to address it with one of the following solutions after conducting appropriate research and interviews: 1) More speed bumps 2) A radar gun screen 3) Additional speed limit signs.	Ongoing	Vivek Rao - BC Senator (vrao@mit.edu)
Election Source Code: To improve the accountability of the Election Commission and to allow other student groups to run online elections of their own, the Commission would like to polish and release some version of the software currently running student elections. This would most likely be under MIT license or GPL.	Codebase stable; being cleaned up and documented.	Ongoing	Election Commission (ua-elect@mit.edu)
Clarify Election Procedures in UA/Uniform Class Constitutions: To clarify voter/candidate definitions, exact role of Election Commission in elections, and methodology of elections, work with Class Council officers and UA Senate to specify and make any necessary changes to governing documents. The Election Code and Campaign Rules Document will also be reviewed in the process, but due to recent revision no major changes are expected.	A number of desired changes have been identified, and a bill is being drafted for Senate proposal.	Spring 2004 Election	Election Commission (ua-elect@mit.edu)

Concrete Change: The UA is implementing changes that students will be able to see immediately upon completion. We are very focused on making daily life better at MIT.

Goal	Current Progress	Target Completion Date	Contact
Daytime Shuttle: Facilitate the crossing of the Charles River through the Harvard Bridge Shuttle during the winter months.	DSL is ready to implement in November, currently exploring how budget cuts may or may not affect the schedule.	Early November	Coordinating Committee (ua@mit.edu)
Fields, Fences, and Safety: Integrating West Campus with a Real and Reasonable Policy - First, Simmons residents have inconsistent and unofficial access to the fields for recreational use. Second, all West Campus residents wishing to get to and from Simmons Hall find the Brigg's field fence to be an inconvenience that further isolates MIT's newest and highly celebrated undergrad dorm. This inaccessibility forces many to resort to climb over the fences which is unsafe, especially at night. The goal of this UA Senate project is to draft an official MIT policy on field access locations and times, and especially official paths to get across the field. The policy will be made with careful consideration of Varsity, IM, and club sports' field usage.	The Director of Athletics, Candace Royer, and the Dean of Student Life, Larry Benedict, have always been aware of this issue and have already begun enthusiastically supporting this project. There are two implicitly official paths, which unfortunately entail walking around either side of the field. However, two new paths will be created. One path will be made through the parking lot abutting the western side of Brigg's field. The second path will be made through the gates behind the baseball backstop and in front of Burton-Conner, just west of the outdoor track and "tennis bubble." The gates which this path utilizes will also serve as field access points with a type of lock only accessible to students.	As these are short-term solutions to the West Campus, they will be expected to be completed within the fall term. I have been told that the "West Lot" path will be completed within two weeks. The "tennis bubble" path should be underway or completed by no later than mid-November.	Cameron Sadegh - Simmons Senator (sadegh@mit.edu)
East Side Student Space: Create a working group charged with the following: "We would like to create a UA working group to oversee the creation of a 'Student Space' on the East Side of MIT's campus. The nature and location of this space is to be determined by the working group. Ideally, this space would emulate the success of the Student Center First Floor Lounge, with the possible addition of some basic electronic media. The management of this space will also be handled by the committee."	The working group has been sent to the Nominations Committee; the member search is in progress.	Mid-November	Jacob Faber (ua-vp@mit.edu)
Operation Bike Racks: Increase the number of bike racks around campus "hot spots."	Evaluating costs of bike racks. Surveying students where bike racks are most needed.	November	Jennifer Peng - Baker Senator (jpeng@mit.edu)
Kitchen Space for Non-Dorm Students and Student Groups: Acquire and renovate kitchen space for use by students on a walk-in basis, and for student groups by reservation.	Walker targeted as a good candidate for renovation.	January/February 2004	Katherine H. Allen - Off-Campus Senator (katallen@mit.edu)

Goal	Current Progress	Target Completion Date	Contact
Caretaker Charts for Excess Alcohol Consumption: A sign will be created to hang on the back of bathroom doors in all FSILGs that illustrates in a clear, flow-chart design appropriate care techniques and steps for an intoxicated person. The signs will be easily locatable and easy to follow so that a nervous or mildly intoxicated student caretaker can make sure that his/her friend gets the help s/he needs.	Getting in contact with Student Health Advisory Council and director of MIT Medical.	IAP	Robin Davis - Panhel Senator (<i>robind83@mit.edu</i>), Hannah Choe (<i>hchoe@mit.edu</i>) - MacGregor Senator
Gynecology Appt. Waiting Time Decrease: Decrease the waiting time for an appt. with the OB/GYN or find an alternative. The purpose is to make birth control more accessible to women in need and in a timelier manner.	Currently making the appropriate contacts, i.e. Student Health Advisory Council and director of MIT Medical	IAP	Robin Davis (<i>robind83@mit.edu</i>), Hannah Choe (<i>hchoe@mit.edu</i>)
Setting Security Guidelines Across Campus: The goal of this project is to make the security guidelines uniform across campus, such that dorm security access through each front desk/front door is the same. This reduces confusion for dorm residents and guests, while increasing security in some dorms and making security in others more practical.	Meeting with DormCon on Oct. 23 to discuss the issue	December	Hannah Choe (<i>hchoe@mit.edu</i>)
Athena Clusters in Fraternity Houses: The objective of this project is to install at least one computer with the Athena system for communal use in every fraternity that is interested in getting one. Athena machines come installed with Matlab and other programs that a lot of MIT students need to use. It also allows easy access to course folders which some professors choose to use to post homework and notes.	Contact every house, gauge interest and ask for feedback.	Late November	Tanzeer Khan - IFC Senator (<i>tanzeer@mit.edu</i>)
Resolving Freshman Scheduling Conflicts: We will try to prevent conflicts in freshman schedules, minimizing the need for newly arrived freshmen to change lecture and recitation times on Registration Day.	Planning within the Student Committee on Educational Policy.	Registration Day, Spring 2004	SCEP (<i>ua-scep-chairs@mit.edu</i>)
Assessment of Unit Adherence: Based on subject evaluations from previous years, we will assess how units awarded for a given class corresponded to the number of hours students reported working on the class.	Planning within the Student Committee on Educational Policy.	IAP	SCEP (<i>ua-scep-chairs@mit.edu</i>)
Zesiger Center Locker Allocation: Work with the department of athletics to improve the process by which Zesiger Center lockers may be purchased. From talking to students, many felt that the first-come, first-serve system used this year was confusing and wasted too much of their time.	Based on an evaluation of the current process, the Zesiger Center will be developing a lottery system for the next rental period. I'm in the process of setting up a meeting with the general manager of the Zesiger Center to discuss the proposed system further.	End of term	Seth Dorfman - Simmons Senator (<i>sethd@mit.edu</i> ; http://simmons.mit.edu/ua/)
Improve Candidate's Meeting: Traditionally, candidates are only told procedure and rules at candidate orientation meeting. We'd like to change that so more information about the positions they're running for is presented, possibly by inviting the current officers in those positions to say a few words.	Will begin once election schedule is set	Spring 2004 Election	Election Commission (<i>ua-elec@mit.edu</i>)
Modify Platform Format: To give the voter more concrete information and to make candidates think about why they are running and what they will do in office, asking all candidates one or two specific short-response questions in addition to the open platform.	Exact platform requirements in discussion with UA and Election Commission.	Spring 2004 Election	Election Commission (<i>ua-elec@mit.edu</i>)
Institute Wide Student Government Communications Committee: Develop and implement a structure for a committee composed of student government leaders from across campus to improve communications amongst these groups and to discuss large issues that affect student life.	First Meeting Oct. 22 8 p.m. W20-400	February 2004	John Velasco (<i>ua-treasurer@mit.edu</i>)
Improve Finboard Allocations Processes to Student Groups: Clarify process of allocations via online guides and templates for proposals, guidelines for funding, and improvement of the liaison program.	Initial brainstorming meetings with Finboard and ASA Representatives.	February 2004	FinBoard (<i>finboard@mit.edu</i>)
"Lunch with Larry" (Dean Benedict): Develop a series of monthly lunches with Dean Benedict for UA Senators, UA Cabinet Members, and leaders of other organizations in order to discuss current student issues in a casual atmosphere. Also serves as a means by which student leaders can get to know Dean Benedict on a more personal level, with the hopes that they will be able to approach him for assistance or guidance on their personal campus projects.	First lunch in October, schedule for year is set, but improvements in the structure of the lunches and process of selection for members invited will be improved.	Completed and continuing.	John Velasco (<i>ua-treasurer@mit.edu</i>)
Star Market Survey: Star Market is currently reviewing a proposal from MIT to accept the Tech Cash system. A survey will be conducted to quantify student support for this proposal. Information gained from the survey will be used to project future sales increase and given as a report to Star Market.	Milestones: Write survey Create online certificate based survey Run survey Analyze Data Write Report Submit Report to Star Market	End of semester	Reuben Cummings - Dining Committee Chair (<i>ua-dining-chairs@mit.edu</i>)
CoffeeHouse Reintroduction: Because of declining sales and serious financial losses. The 24-hr CoffeeHouse was forced to reduce its hours and later closed. Since then, the CoffeeHouse has been used very infrequently and only for special events. The closing only blocked off the counter leaving the remaining space as a student lounge/study area. This has given the CoffeeHouse a very 'dead' atmosphere which is far from the lively environment it once maintained.	Currently in contact with several groups that are interested in holding CoffeeHouse events	Ongoing	Reuben Cummings (<i>ua-dining-chairs@mit.edu</i>)
Campus Dining/Residential Dining: Since the recent introduction of Sodexho and Bon Appetit into the MIT Dining Community, many changes have been made to the Dining Programs including renovations, new menus, and new hours.	Conducted campus wide survey rating the MIT Dining Program	Ongoing	Reuben Cummings (<i>ua-dining-chairs@mit.edu</i>)
Tech Cash Expansion: Currently, only a few vendors outside of MIT, namely Domino's, accept the MIT card (Tech Cash). A survey has been previously conducted to determine which restaurants students would most like to have accept Tech Cash. These restaurants will be targeted first for Tech Cash consideration.	Developed criteria for considering potential restaurants.	End of semester	Reuben Cummings (<i>ua-dining-chairs@mit.edu</i>)
Community: "Community building." It's become a popular buzzword recently. Despite the cynicism that stems from the vagueness of the term, we believe that it is important to build a strong community at MIT. Our campus is fortunate to have a diverse range of interests, cultures, and abilities that we do not always utilize. We believe that it's not necessary to homogenize everyone in order to have community; rather, we should aim for appreciation of the different passions and cultures that we as a student body bring to the Institute.			
Goal	Current Progress	Target Completion Date	Contact
Cultural Groups Coalition: Generate an incentive for ASA recognized cultural groups to interact with one another on a regular basis.	White paper outlining the goals and structure of this group is being edited.	February	Pius Uzamere (<i>ua-president@mit.edu</i>), Jacob Faber (<i>ua-vp@mit.edu</i>)
SEVISAC: Form a committee to accomplish the following: "The purpose of this committee is to (1) ensure that MIT is following this pledge of reporting only the minimum required information and to (2) generally safeguard the privacy rights of students affected by the SEVIS program. This committee will be expected to work with the International Students Office to audit the types of data being sent about students as well as obtain and publish other relevant statistics, culminating in a yearly or semesterly report, as appropriate. This committee will serve an important purpose in adding transparency to the SEVIS program and adding some accountability, in case privacy rights are being violated. Eventually, this will become a joint UA-GSC committee."	The committee has been sent to the Nominations Committee; the member search is in progress.	Mid to late November	Pius Uzamere (<i>ua-president@mit.edu</i>)
Reschedule Interphase: Allow Project Interphase students (who are mostly underrepresented minorities) to attend Pre-Orientation programs.	Meeting with the Director of the Office of Minority Education to discuss options.	End of December	Pius Uzamere (<i>ua-president@mit.edu</i>), Jacob Faber (<i>ua-vp@mit.edu</i>)
Establish Communication with Off-Campus and Senior Segue Students: Establish mailing lists for discussion among and communication with off-campus (non-FSILG) students (<i>off-campus-undergrads@mit.edu</i>) and for Senior Segue students (<i>senior-segue@mit.edu</i>) and populate lists.	Lists created, Senior Segue list done, off-campus-undergrad list still missing people.	November	Katherine H. Allen (<i>katallen@mit.edu</i>)
2006 Class Morale/Unity: We plan to raise class morale and unity through many 2006-exclusive events designed to increase social interaction and relaxation. We will be heavily subsidizing tickets to "Matrix Revolution" the night before opening day and seats to "Les Miserables" at the Boston Colonial. The cast of ImprovBoston will also be coming to MIT in mid-November and performing in 10-250. Our second-semester events include the formal at the Top of the Hub in the beginning of March, an end-of-the-year beach party, study breaks, and holiday events. Our year long goal is to gather a team of students devoted to the creation of a class song.	Tickets will be sold in the weeks prior to each event at very low rates. The Web site announcing official dates will be arranged once our Webmaster is selected for the year.	Ongoing Timeline: Matrix Revolution, Nov. 4; Les Miserables, 1st week of December; Class Formal, beginning of March; Beach Party, last week of classes.	2006 Class Council (<i>2006-council@mit.edu</i>)
Sponsoring Community Service Events: We will be working with the Greater Boston Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and nursing homes in the local area to sponsor several weekend events/projects this semester. It is our objective to hold on-campus events during the second semester, including a science fair for local elementary school students, a carnival for the elderly, and other events as well. We hope to use the resources and members of the class of 2006 to increase awareness of the condition of the surrounding areas, and to help contribute to a more pleasant community.	We will be selecting a Community Service Chair after applications are submitted next week. E-mails will be sent to the class on a timely basis to invite students to join these projects.	Greater Boston Food Bank in late October; Home-building in late- November. On-campus events will take place next semester	2006 Class Council (<i>2006-council@mit.edu</i>)

New UA List May Not Inspire More Interest

Goals, from Page 1

dormitories, and installing Athena stations in fraternity houses.

Student reaction mixed

A few students said they welcomed the idea, but that they do not expect that this will increase their interest or involvement in UA projects.

“I might go [to the Web site] to see what they’re changing,” said

Jamie Liu ’05. “It wouldn’t be a Web site that I would visit regularly.”

Liu said that the Web site seems like a good idea for holding UA representatives accountable but that it doesn’t make much of a difference to her.

“If something interesting is going on, I probably will” visit the new section of the Web site, said Yaser M. Khan ’07.

The UA Web site can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/ua/www>.

Students Split on Smoking Ban

Smoking, from Page 1

the City Council ruling themselves, and decided on their own to allow smoking in suites.

“As long as we don’t make a big deal about it, we can do it on the sly and no one will care,” Hinel said.

Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson, who sent an e-mail to housemasters about the new policy changes, is on medical leave and could not be reached for comment.

Students respond to smoking ban

Student responses to the smoking ban have been mixed across campus.

Hinel said that Senior House residents are “mostly against” the smoking ban. She said that residents have placed several signs around the dormitory in protest, such as the red “No Smoking” sign symbol in the shape of a swastika.

“People see it as a hassle,” said John M. Glowa ’07, a resident of Senior House. Glowa said that since the ban has gone into effect “no one

really enforces it.”

Anjuli J. Willmer ’07, a resident of Bexley Hall, is for the smoking ban.

“I like not having to worry about whether the lounge is going to be all smokey,” Willmer said.

“There have been some people against [the ban], but I think those places should be open to everyone, especially people like me who are sensitive to the smell,” he said.

Christopher H. Yim, a resident of East Campus, said he had never heard about the smoking ban, and had not received an e-mail from his housemaster about the changes to dormitory policy. His hall in East Campus did not allow smoking before Oct. 1.

Penalties for smoking violations

Associate Dean of Student Discipline Steve Tyrell said that most smoking ban violations are dealt with by the dormitory community. As such, he has received very few complaints about smoking violations.

For example, if a student is smoking in a dormitory lounge, a graduate residence tutor can ask the student to move into their private room, especially since many students are still not aware of the ban.

If a student ignores these suggestions, then a house’s judicial committee or housemasters could help to resolve the situation. If these measures do not work, then a student can file a discipline complaint, Tyrell said. A discipline committee will hold a hearing to decide on a proper punishment for those who consistently ignore the smoking ban.

Cambridge passed ban in June

The Cambridge City Council voted to establish a smoking ban in all public spaces in the city, including bars and restaurants, this June. The ban took effect on Oct. 1.

The ban in Cambridge came shortly after similar anti-smoking laws were passed in Boston and Somerville.

This space donated by *The Tech*

Solution to ChessMate

from page 18

1. Qxf4 Qxf4 2. Be6+ Kb7 3. Bd5+ c6 4. Bxc6+ Kc8 5. Ra8+ Kc7 6. Ra7+ Kc8 7. g3 Qg4 8. Rfa1 Kd8 9. Bd4 Qd1+ 10. Rxd1 Kc8 11. Bxb6 Kb8 12. Ra83
OR
1. Qxf4 Qxf4 2. Be6+ Kb8 3. Bd5 c6 4. bxc6 Rc8 5. Rfb1 Kc7 6. Nc4 Bxe4 7. Nxb6 Qg4 8. Ra7+ Kd8 9. f3 Bxf3 10. Bxf3

Solution to Crossword

from page 18

M	A	J		S	E	R	A	P	H		T	H	I	S
A	M	O		A	V	E	R	S	E		E	A	S	T
N	I	H		M	E	L	V	I	N		B	E	L	L
I	N	N		P	R	E					E	N	T	E
C	O	N		W	A	Y	T	W	I	T	T			
				I	O	N		E	V	E	S		O	T
B	E	E	R		R	O	S	I	N		E	Z	R	A
E	A	R	L		A	C	T	E	D		E	Z	I	O
S	C	A	D		N	E	E	D	S		L	I	P	S
T	H			S	C	A	R				B	E	E	
				J	O	H	N	N		Y	C	A	R	S
S	T	O	O							O	R	R		M
C	A	B	C		A	L	L	O	W	A			I	T
A	M	O	K		C	O	O	L	T	O		T	E	E
G	E	E	S		L	O	O	S	E	N		H	R	S

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Division of Student Life Office Heads Open Hours

Barbara Baker
Associate Dean,
Director of Student Life Programs
Open Hours: Friday 11AM-12PM
and Wednesday, 4-5 PM
Room: W20-549

Karen Nilsson
Director of Housing
Open Hours: Tuesday, 11AM-12PM
Room: E32-200

Frank Salamone
DSL Financial Director
Open Hours: Tuesday, 2-3 PM
Room: W20-507

Larry Benedict
Dean for Student Life
Open Hours: Friday, 10-11AM
Room: 4-110

Robert Randolph
Senior Associate Dean
for Students, Housemaster
Open Hours: Tuesday, 2-3PM
Room: 4-110

Danny Trujillo
Associate Dean for Community
Development & Substance
Abuse Programs (CDSA)
Open Hours: Friday, 10AM-12PM
Room: W32-135

Steve Immerman
Associate Dean for Student Life,
Executive Director of
Enterprise Services
Open Hours: Friday, 3-5 PM
Room: 5-208

Candace Royer
Department Head,
Director of DAPER
Open Hours: Friday, 2-3 PM
Room: W35-298

Steve Tyrell
Associate Dean
for Student Discipline
Open Hours: Friday, 12-1:30 PM
Room: E32-133a

Lions, tigers, and
penguins, oh my.



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Ghetto Party Announcement

One of two e-mail Ghetto Party announcements, sent last Thursday to East Campus and Senior House lists by the party organizers: Philip J. Butler '04, Leonid Drozhinin '04, Ankur M. Mehta G, and Kabir J. Mukaddam '05. The announcement contains the "Walcott manifesto," which the party organizers say was written last year by several residents of the Walcott section of Third East.

GHETTO PARTY

8/2 (tonight) 10 PM

3RD EAST, DEEP WALCOTT

KFC, malt liquor, and boxed wine. 40'S, hubcaps, and trashcan fires.

BLING making (bring your old HEAs [A key previously used at East Campus]), littering, and rap.

And after you pass out from all the 40s, you can rest up in the walcott lounge tent-city - designed to look and feel like those dirty places where real poor people live.

[An earlier announcement opened instead with the text, "Callin all you playas, pimps, hos, gangstas, and bitches... there be a party goin down in da Tetazoo walcott ghetto this thursday 10/2. So come on over at 10pm to da EAST SIDE fo' food, drink, and a genuine trash-can-fire heated tent city in our hood."]

And heed our manifesto:

1. Litter frequently. Walcott is not a place for pussies or for clean people. Ghettos are not clean. Walcott as is is way too clean. If you find empty bottles (ideally 40s), hubcaps, or oil barrels, toss them into the hallway. If you are unsure about where to litter, litter in mikey p's room.
2. Graffiti is encouraged. Think your roommates (or mikeyp's) wall looks to clean? Fix the problem.
3. Loud music is key. Rap will be played at an acceptable (read, reallyfucking loud) volume. If your neighbors ask you to turn it down, threaten them with physical violence.
4. Ass slapping is essential. If someone slaps your ass, reciprocate. Do not take ass slapping as a sign of sexual harassment or hazing - it is important to your well being on walcott.
5. Steal stuff from other areas of the hall. Do you need an extra computer and the ones on reuse won't cut it? I hear mattxmal [East Campus President Mateusz K. Malinowski '04] has a good computer. He wont miss it - and if he does, we will fuck him up real bad when he tries to take it back. If you steal something from somebody and they accuse you of doing so, threaten them with physical violence. Actually, just threaten everyone with physical violence.
6. Fried Chicken, 40's, Cheap Lawn chairs. Hells yeah.

peace out,
walcott niggas fo life

"Girls pee pee when they see me
Nava-hoes creep me in they tee-pee"
Notorious B.I.G
RIP 1997

President Vest's Response

President Charles M. Vest sent this e-mail to several campus mailing lists late Sunday night, condemning the "Ghetto party" as "unthinking and demeaning behavior" that "can invade our collective soul and destroy our ability to pursue our mission of learning, growth and leadership." Pius A. Uzamere II '04, the Undergraduate Association president, sent his own e-mail condemning the party, printed in the Opinion section on page 5.

Thursday evening a small group of MIT students held what they termed a "Ghetto Party" in their residence hall. This event was advertised in advance by an e-mail message that I have read and find to be outrageous and mean spirited in its derogatory references to poor people and its overt use of racial epithet and negative stereotyping.

Our community draws strength and joy from its diversity in many dimensions, including that of race. We have a broad tolerance for speech, humor and thought. But unthinking and demeaning behavior such as this party and its advertising can invade our collective soul and destroy our ability to pursue our mission of learning, growth and leadership. Students on this campus, whether minority or majority, and whether directly involved or not, should not be subjected to such an environment.

I will be further troubled if, as a preliminary investigation indicates, it turns out that no one who read the invitation pointed out to their peers how hateful and harmful its language and racial implications were. Passivity amplifies the mean-spirited actions of others.

Race in America remains a troubling matter, but we look to the leadership and good will of talented young men and women who are privileged to be part of great institutions like MIT to move us beyond this and improve our world. It is sad and disappointing when even a few choose to take the opposite path.

MIT's administrative and student governance systems will deal swiftly and fairly with those responsible for this event. But we all must move equally swiftly to pull together, to learn the lessons of this matter, and to work together in mutual respect and common purpose to live up to our potential as friends, colleagues and leaders.

--Charles M. Vest

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Organizers Apologize to Uzamere, Faber, and CCCR

Party, from Page 1

not there in any official capacity” as UA president and vice president.

The organizers arranged a meeting to discuss the matter with Uzamere and Faber. The organizers say they intended to apologize in person and make clear their satirical intent.

But Uzamere and Faber subsequently canceled the meeting and have declined to meet with the organizers for the time being. “We were advised by the Office of Student Discipline not to have this meeting,” Uzamere said.

Uzamere declined to discuss the matter further, referring inquiries to a statement he and Faber wrote (see page 5).

Organizers wrote apology

After Uzamere and Faber came to the party, “We said, ‘Hey, there’s not just one way to inter-

pret this,’” Mukaddam said. “We realized how offensive this could be, and we thought we’d better apologize,” he said.

The organizers drafted an e-mail apology, sent to Uzamere, Faber, and the Campus Committee on Race Relations. “While attempting to satirize popular Rap culture we overstepped the boundaries of good taste,” the apology said. “The theme was intended to be goofy, silly and absurd. Our intentions were to present a farce on Popular Culture and not to be racially insensitive or insulting to our fellow students.”

“If this had been brought to our attention earlier, we wouldn’t have done it,” Butler said.

“As soon as we found out people were hurt, we apologized, because we don’t want hurt,” Mehta said.

“We didn’t think it would be a problem, because it makes fun of a stereotype,” Mukaddam said. “We

thought it was clear that it was a parody.”

Administration condemns party

Late Sunday night, Vest wrote an e-mail (see page 15) to several mailing lists condemning the “Ghetto Party.”

“[U]nthinking and demeaning behavior such as this party and its advertising can invade our collective soul and destroy our ability to pursue our mission of learning, growth and leadership,” Vest wrote. “Students on this campus, whether minority or majority, and whether directly involved or not, should not be subjected to such an environment.”

“I will be further troubled if, as a preliminary investigation indicates, it turns out that no one who read the invitation pointed out to their peers how hateful and harmful its language and racial implications were,” he wrote.

In an interview, Larry G. Benedict, the dean for student life, said

that he found the invitation “very offensive.”

“Racism has no place at MIT,” Benedict said.

Disciplinary hearing to come

A disciplinary investigation began last Friday to determine the specifics of the event, Benedict said. A disciplinary hearing for the event organizers will soon be scheduled, he said.

“We will be under some kind of discipline, by the deans or the Committee on Discipline,” Drozhinin said.

Mehta said disciplinary charges

would likely be filed against the four organizers and Robert W. Taylor ’06, an East Campus resident who helped with the party but who the organizers and Taylor agree had no part in planning the party or writing its announcement.

No disciplinary charges have yet been filed, the organizers said. It was not immediately possible to confirm this account.

“The results of all of this will help us to clarify our values as a community in which we care about each other, where we respect each other, and where we support each other,” Benedict said.

Party Organizers’ Apology

The organizers of the “Ghetto Party” sent this apology e-mail early Friday morning to the Campus Committee on Race Relations and to Pius A. Uzamere II ’04 and Jacob W. Faber ’04, the Undergraduate Association president and vice president, who came to the party and said they found the announcement offensive. A fifth student who helped with the party but said he was not involved with the planning, Robert W. Taylor ’06, also signed the apology.

Dear members of the Campus Committee on Race Relations,


This email is in reference to a conversation we had with Pius Uzamere and Jacob Faber on Thursday night. Jacob and Pius came to talk to us about a previous email that was sent to ec-discuss advertising a party we organized. Specifically, Jacob and Pius let us know that they were offended by the language used in the email. We would like to now apologize for our email.

While attempting to satirize popular Rap culture we overstepped the boundaries of good taste. This is a regrettable situation and we feel that we must address this immediately so that our intentions could be clarified. The theme was intended to be goofy, silly and absurd. Our intentions were to present a farce on Popular Culture and not to be racially insensitive or insulting to our fellow students.

We have recognized that we have trivialized a racially sensitive topic. We have begun an open discussion between our hall members and our GRT concerning this unfortunate incident and how we can prevent any such future actions.

We remain open to any further discussion. Please feel free to contact us.

Kabir Mukaddam, kabir@mit.edu
Rob Taylor, rtaylor@mit.edu
Ankur Mehta, mehtank@mit.edu
Phil Butler, pbutler@mit.edu
Leonid Drozhinin, rain@mit.edu



Artist Behind the Desk at

MIT Endicott House

Concert and Buffet Brunch


Featuring The Silverwood Trio

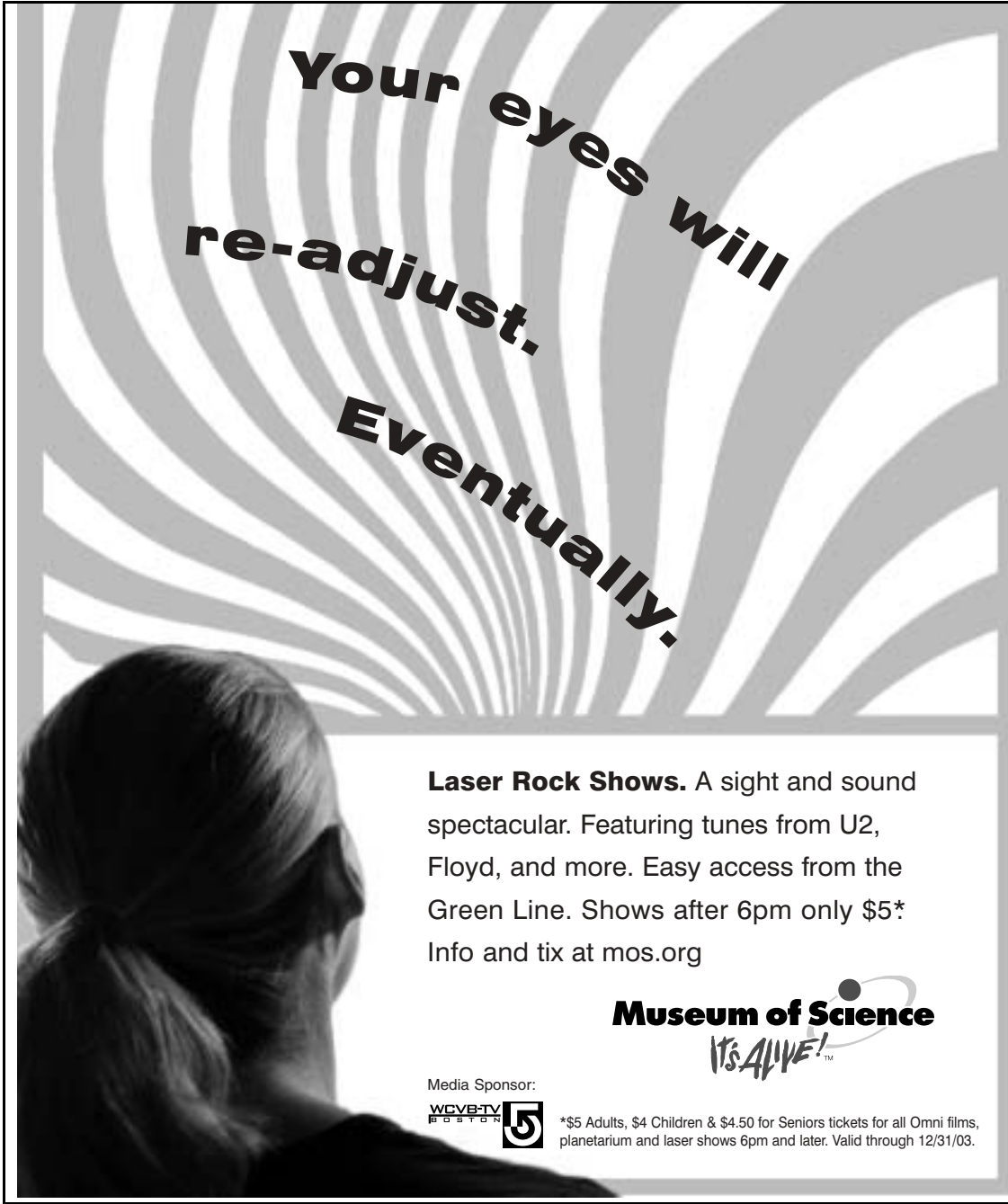
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Reservations Required

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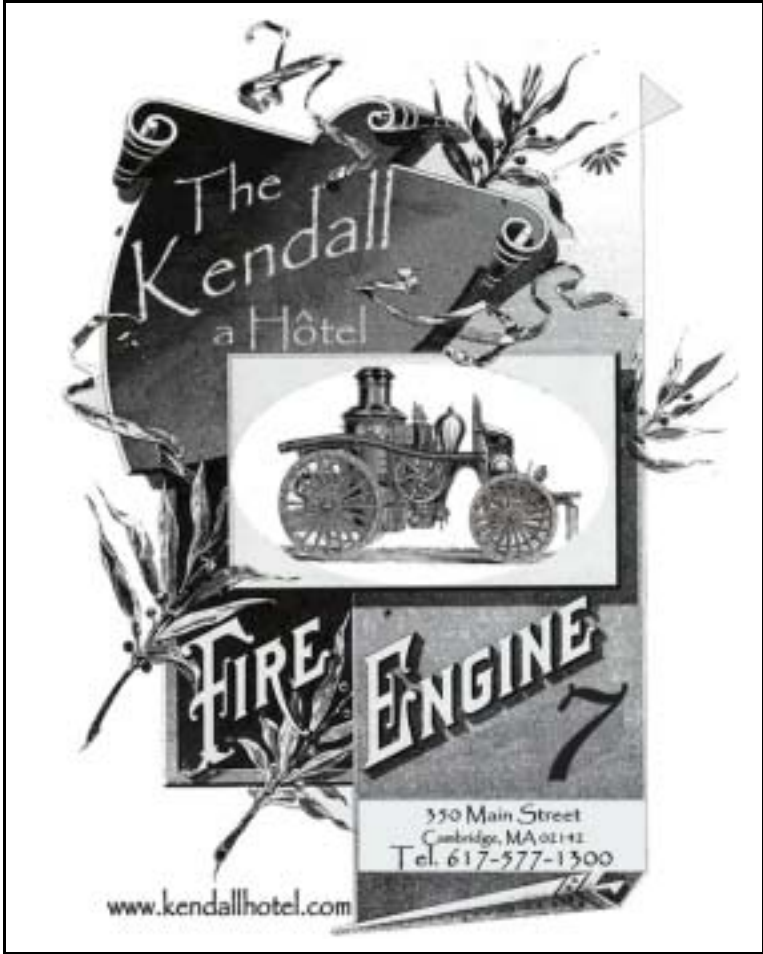
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by, Qian Wang + Jennifer Peng



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By ELLI K. SPARKS



Positive Sinking

Now with Talking Stick-Figure Heads



By Akshay Patil
COLUMNIST

Dear Positive Sinking (yes, that is your new name now),

Have you ever noticed how some comic strips are by two cartoonists? How would that work out? Does that mean both cartoonists have to get together in order to come up with a single idea? Or do they have one person come up with ideas and the other person just sit there and say "Not funny enough, try again?"

If Positive Sinking were to come with a comic strip, would you do it yourself, or would you hire twenty staff members? You should get that Tech Supplement guy... he can be really funny at times.

—Scott Adams (the smart one, because he only has to draw three pictures for a full strip)

Excellent question, Monsieur Adams. I, too, spend large quantities of time sitting around pondering deep philosophical issues such as the one you have just posed. I would conjecture that double-authored strips are probably writer/drawer pairs. You know, kind of like the drawer/inker duo in "Chasing

Amy" except one of them just comes up with ideas. Or something.

If Positive Sinking were to expand into the comic strip business, we (sadly, this is a royal "we"... I'm so lonely) would totally hire 20 staff members and stick them into a cramped smelly room with paper, pens (no pencils! no mistakes!), and a toilet. The toilet is key; many sweat comic shops overlook the fact that toilets are a necessary tool in comedy. All too often we forget our trade's ancient motto "Never leave home without a toilet." Ahh... wise words indeed.

With such a large staff, we would make sure that the high quality standards of Positive Sinking are not compromised (remember our slogan: "Positive Sinking — We put the 'P' in 'Pissing'"). I would personally sit outside the door with a whip and periodically scream "You call a banana with a toupee 'funny'? We're trying to make people laugh, not burp!" I'd also wear a pair of nice, tight leather pants, an unbuttoned shirt, a cute little hat and I'd crack my whip like Catwoman and go purrrr...

Ahem...

Anyways, as I was saying, If I weren't able to shanghai 20 staff members, I'd probably have a pretty ugly comic strip. You know, like one of those strips which is just three panels of stick-figure talking heads. And they'd make marginally funny jokes that only MIT people would laugh at. See below.

Oh yeah, look at the emotion! The drama! The suspense! The colors! The life-like detail! The bananas in toupees! Nothing left to do now but sit back and wait for a Pulitzer. Well, might as well go on to the next e-mail while the committee does their final voting.

Hi,

This is a special offer to alumni. These units are refurbished and are guaranteed to look and work like new, they just don't cost like it. They are regulation size with all the standard laptop features. Each is complete and ready to go out of the box, and includes all the software a student usually needs. battery and ac adaptor, netcard, and modem.

To get yours now or for more information click on the banner above or the URL below. These won't last long these special prices.

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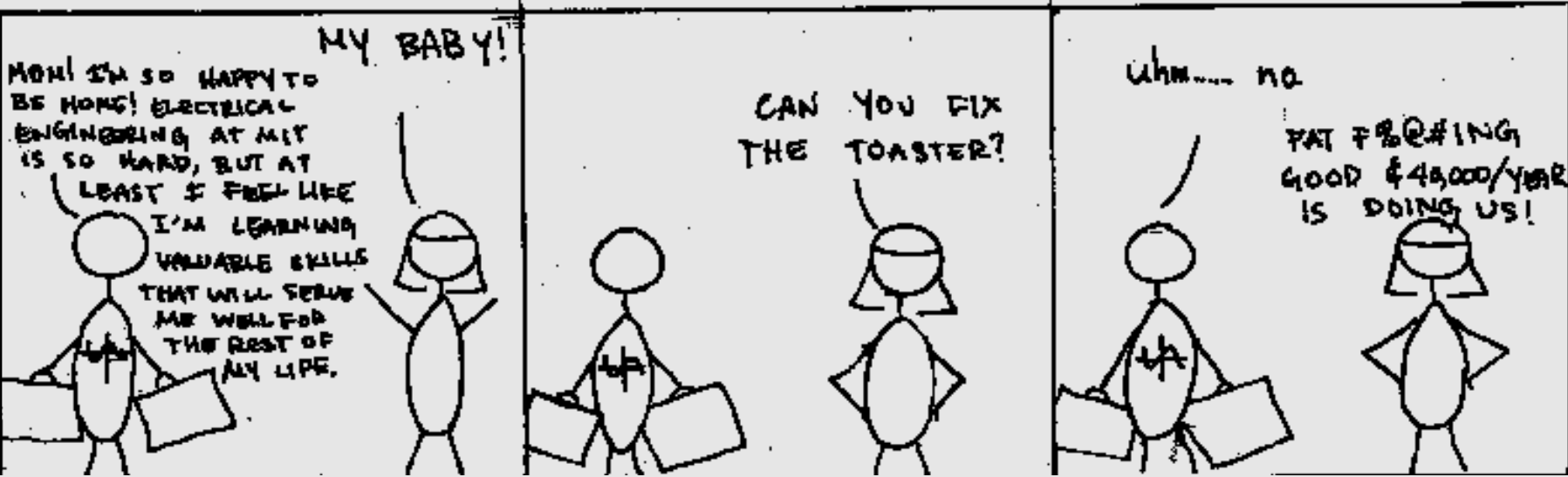
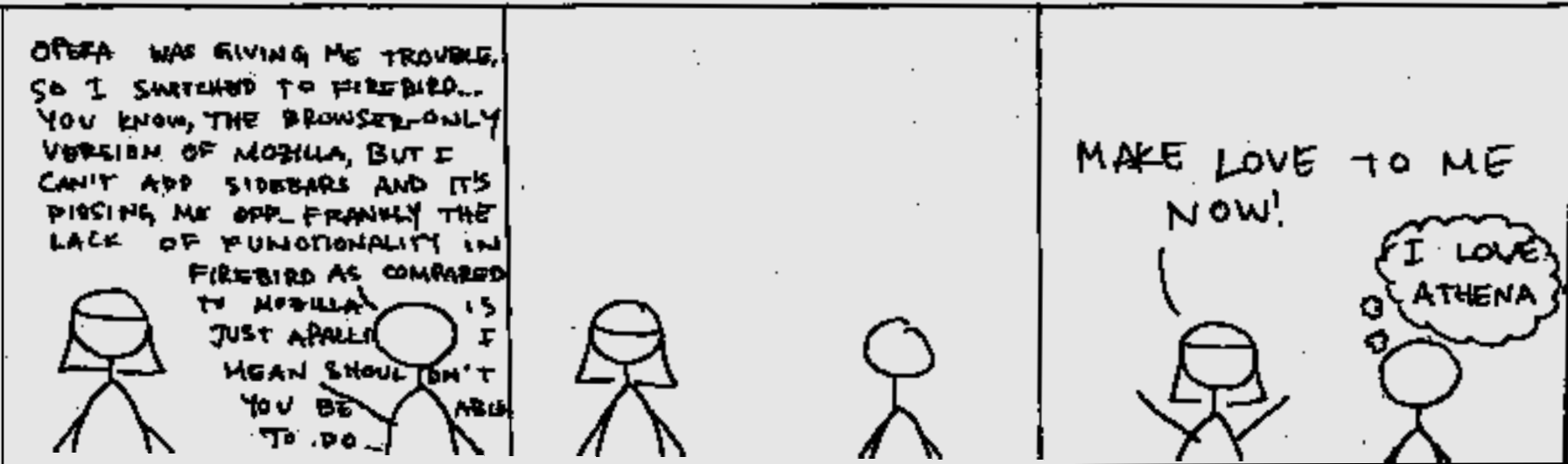
You will love it our your money back.

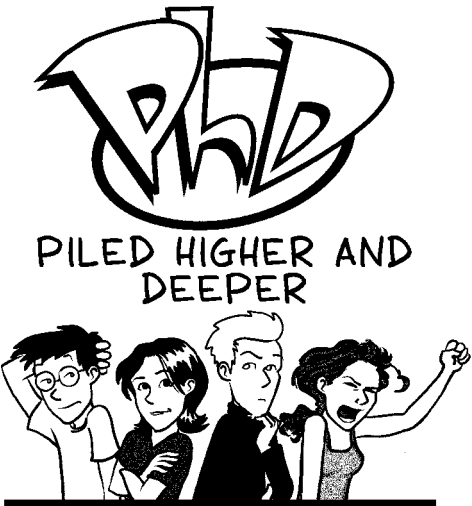
—Thank You

Holy Crap! I could get a regulation sized laptop with a netcard for \$99. Amazing! And the best part is that even if I don't like it, I can get "our your" money back. This is the bestest e-mail Positive Sinking has ever received. You like me... you really do like me.

Tears of joy are streaming from my eyes and onto my keyboard but I don't care because I'm going to use my alumni special offer and get this wondrous machine delivered to my door, maybe even with the special up grade. I'm so happy.

Are you lonely too? Do you wish you had a newspaper column all to yourself that you could snuggle up with in front of the fireplace on a cold winter night? Well, e-mail sinking@mit.edu and remember: only you can prevent forest fires.





www.phdcomics.com

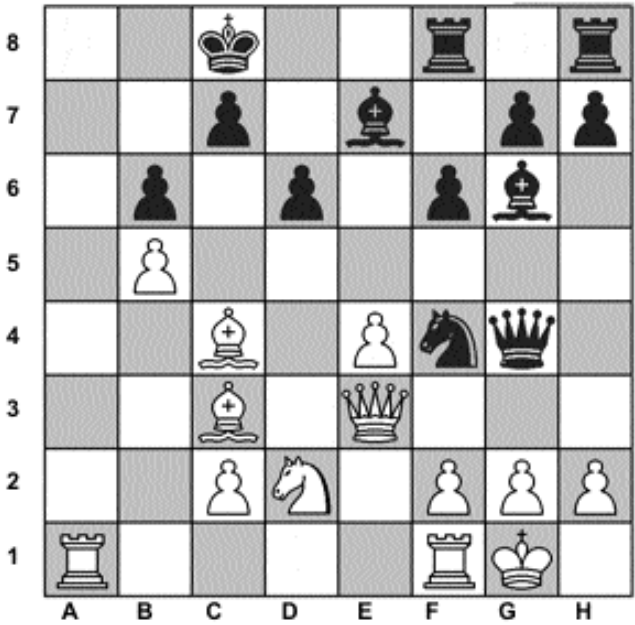
Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

ChessMate

Composed by Elina Groberman

Holiday Special
Difficulty Level 5
White plays and wins
(12+ move sol'n)



Comments? E-mail chessmate@the-tech.mit.edu
Solutions on page 16

Events Calendar

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Friday, October 10

10:00 a.m. – Admissions Information Session. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, (Building 10, Room 10-100). Sponsor: Information Center.

10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour. Student-led campus tours are approximately 90 minutes long and provide a general overview of the main campus. Please note that campus tours do not visit laboratories, living groups, or buildings under construction. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: Lobby 7. Sponsor: Information Center.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – DMSE Research in the Department Lecture. Lecture by Professor Klavs Jensen, Lamont Dupont Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Chemical Engineering. Free. Room: Chipman room 8-314. Sponsor: Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering, Materials Research Society.

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, and questioning members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. Free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@mit.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Writers Group. New writers are invited to join our weekly Writers Group (sponsored by the Writing and Communication Center). Share a piece of your writing with other interested and supportive writers. Open to all MIT students, staff, faculty, and spouses. Free. Room: 14N-417. Sponsor: Writing and Communication Center.

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – MCP seminar. Inside, Outside, Top and Bottom: Seth Kaplan Senior Attorney Conservation Law Foundation Abstract: Effective advocacy employs a wide range of tools including litigation, press relations, grassroots organizing and behind-the-scenes negotiation with key decision makers. There will also be a discussion of the "American Style Non-Profit Organization" contrasting this model with the "European Style Non-Governmental Organization." Free. Room: 54 - 915. Sponsor: Mexico City Project.

1:10 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. – Muslim Friday Prayer. Weekly congregational prayer for Muslims. People of other faiths welcome to attend. E-mail msa-ec@mit.edu for more information. Free. Room: W11-110. Sponsor: Muslim Students Association.

2:00 p.m. – Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: Admissions Reception Center. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Modern Times, Rural Places Seminar. "Country" Matters: Understanding the Early Nineteenth-Century American Environment. Free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: History Office, STS.

2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour. Free. Room: Lobby 7. Sponsor: Information Center.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – SSL Seminar (Arthur Richards). Topic: Model Predictive Control - Robustness, Performance and Decentralization. Free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: Aero/Astro.

5:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Opening Reception: The Great Glass Pumpkin Patch @ MIT. One thousand handblown glass pumpkins, created by artists from the

MIT Glass Lab. Proceeds benefit The MIT Glass Lab, where the MIT community can learn and practice the art of glassblowing. Pumpkin sales begin Saturday, rain or shine. Free. Room: Kresge Oval. Sponsor: MIT Glass Lab.

6:00 p.m. – Shabbat Services & Dinner. Celebrate Shabbat. MIT Hillel's three religious communities hold Shabbat services at 6:00 p.m. (Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform) A community Shabbat dinner follows at 7:00 p.m. Cost for dinner only. Room: Religious Activities Center, Bldg W11. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

7:00 p.m. – 11:59 p.m. – MIT Anime Club: Pirates, Tennis, and deceptively cute aliens. Tonight we will be showing three episodes of "Prince of Tennis", an example of the "sports anime" genre; we'll continue with more episodes of the comic pirate adventures of Monkey D. Luffy and his crew, "One Piece"; we'll conclude with the opening episodes of "Narutaru (Shadow Star)", a deceptive show that starts out looking like a children's show, but then quickly veers into David Lynch territory. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

7:00 p.m. – Varsity Water Polo vs. Harvard. Free. Room: Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center Pool.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Bruce Almighty. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Bible Study. Is there more to life than grad school? We believe the answer is "YES!" Come study the word of God with us. There will be dinner provided and games afterward. Free. Room: 4-149. Sponsor: Asian Baptist Student Koinonia Graduate Division, GSC Funding Board.

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. – Chocolate in Heat: Growing up Arab in America. "Chocolate in Heat" is a performance of interlocking monologues: Need, Love, Ignorance, Sex, and Justice infused with music and dance. The play addresses aspects of the universal human experience, as perceived by a character living at the intersection of two cultures. Betty Shemieh and Piter Fattouche perform, and Sam Gold directs. Chocolate in Heat is currently playing off-Broadway at The Tank Theater in New York. \$5 students, \$10 non-students. Room: Little Kresge Theater. Sponsor: Arab Student Organization. Graduate Student Council Funding Board, Graduate Students Office, MIT Alliance for Secular and Democratic South Asia, Women's Week @ MIT, AAYP-Boston.

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. – Hidden Fortress. A film by Akira Kurosawa. \$3. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: LSC, MIT Japan Program.

8:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. – Sangam Movies. Screening of popular movies. Please subscribe to sangam-request@mit.edu. Free. Sponsor: Sangam, GSC Funding Board.

10:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. – Bruce Almighty. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. – Hidden Fortress. \$3. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: LSC, MIT Japan Program.

All Day – MIT Sukkah. Visit MIT's unique, award-winning sukkah. The structure is built each year to mark the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. Free. Room: Kresge Oval. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

All Day – Thistle issue distribution. Distribution of the Oct. 10, 2003 issue of *The Thistle*. free. Room: newspaper kiosks. Sponsor: The Thistle, GSC Funding Board.

Saturday, October 11

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – The Great Glass Pumpkin Patch @ MIT. Free. Room: Kresge Oval. Sponsor: MIT Glass Lab.

1:00 p.m. – Varsity Women's Field Hockey vs. Wellesley. Free. Room: Jack Barry Field.

1:00 p.m. – Varsity Football vs. WNEC. Free. Room: Steinbrenner Stadium.

4:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. – TMRC Build Time. These are our normal meetings, where we build the layout. Free. Room: N52-118. Sponsor: Tech Model Railroad Club.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – City of God. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. – Sangam Movie Special. Movie Screenings. E-mails are typically sent out if you subscribe to sangam-request@mit.edu. Free. Room: 2-105. Sponsor: Sangam, GSC Funding Board.

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. – Patrol. Travel to strange new classrooms. Meet interesting, unusual people, and kill them! Patrol is a high-action game of live combat with rubber-dart guns. Shoot your friends, then watch out as they try to take their revenge. Free. Room: 36-115. Sponsor: Assassins' Guild, MIT.

10:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. – City of God. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

All Day – MIT Sukkah. Free. Room: Kresge Oval. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

Sunday, October 12

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – The Great Glass Pumpkin Patch @ MIT. Free. Room: Kresge Oval. Sponsor: MIT Glass Lab.

4:00 p.m. – Ashwine Bhide, Hindustani vocal. With Vishwanath Shirodkar, tabla and Seema Shirodkar, harmonium. \$18, \$14 — members, \$10 — students (tentative). Room: 10-250. Sponsor: MITHAS (MIT Heritage of South Asia) in cooperation with Sangam.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Bruce Almighty. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. – International Folk Dancing (participatory). International folk dancing. Teaching and beginners' dances from 8 to 9 p.m. A mixture of all skill levels from 9 to 11 p.m. Occasional live music. Note: We will move to La Sala de Puerto Rico (on the second floor of the Student Center) if it is available. MIT/Wellesley students free: \$1 donation (or more) requested from others. Room: Student Center, room 491. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

10:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. – City of God. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

All Day – MIT Sukkah. Free. Room: Kresge Oval. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

Monday, October 13

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Columbus Day—no classes. Yippee! Free. Sponsor: 7.13.

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. – "Music Under the Stars." Enjoy live jazz and light refreshments under the stars in MIT's award-winning sukkah. (A sukkah is a temporary structure built to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Sukkot) Free. Room: MIT Sukkah on Kresge Oval. Sponsor: Graduate Hillel.

All Day – MIT Sukkah. Free. Room: Kresge Oval. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

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— a Chinese philosopher

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Robert P. Redwine – Dean for Undergraduate Education
Robert W. Field – Haslam and Dewey Professor of Chemistry
Katya Myer – Hillel Program Coordinator

We are inviting 22 students and 4 faculty, staff and administration members to the **Small Dining Room** at MIT Hillel (Building W11). Attendance is by reservation only. Please sign up by October 16th, by contacting Katya Myer katyam@mit.edu

The dinner starts at 6:00pm. See you there!



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SPORTS

Red Sox Take Series, Head to Yankeeland

By Phil Janowicz
SPORTS EDITOR

Break out your cowboy hats because it's time to "Cowboy Up." With their win Monday night, the Red Sox capped an amazing comeback to defeat the Oakland A's in the American League Division Series. Derek Lowe recorded the final out of the series, getting Terrence Long to strike out while looking with the bases loaded and the Sox clinging to a 4-3 lead.

Monday's game marked the third straight win for the Red Sox over the A's to come back from a seemingly insurmountable 0-2 deficit. On Saturday, Trot Nixon came on to pinch-hit in the 11th inning and launched a walk-off two-run shot to straight away center. On Sunday, David Ortiz broke out of his 0-for-16 slump with a two RBI double to right field which gave the Sox a 5-4 victory. The Red Sox just keep pulling every little trick out of their bag to keep this season alive.

Monday's win did come with some bad news when center fielder Johnny Damon received a concussion when he ran into Damian Jackson in the seventh inning. Immediately after the collision, Damon hit the ground and remained there motionless for a few minutes. All the Red Sox were worried for his safety and not for his status in the game. As Damon was being carted off the field, he attempted to point up to show he was okay, but he instead, ironically, pointed directly into the ambulance.

During Damon's departure, David Ortiz tried to get some applause from Oakland, but one

unruly fan yelled "[expletive deleted] you, Ortiz," which even the television audience could understand. Ortiz and the rest of the Sox, understandably, took much offense to this, and they almost jumped into the stands to fight the guy. Thankfully, the fan was carried away in a stranglehold by security.

The Red Sox now turn their attention to the perennially-hated Yankees in the American League Championship Series. For this series, the Sox made a few roster changes. First of all, they decided to keep Damon on the roster because all tests run on Tuesday turned out to be negative. Trade deadline acquisition Jeff Suppan replaced center fielder Adrian Brown, and reliever Todd Jones replaced much maligned former closer, Byung-Hyun Kim. Kim was removed from the roster officially because he experienced a stiff shoulder while warming up in game three. Although manager Grady Little claims he would only remove Kim from the roster because of physical reasons, I'm sure that Kim's recent actions played a role in his demotion as well.

During the game three introductions, Kim's name was announced and a mixture of cheers and jeers ensued. Kim, known as a "trouble-maker" to the Red Sox front office, proceeded to give the Fenway Faithful the finger. There's no doubt in my mind that he'll be playing for the Astros next year.

Even with the Sox somewhat shaken up, this series will prove to be another fall classic. I see the Sox taking it in six to meet the Marlins (in six over the Cubs) in the World Series.



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

A Babson College player collides with MIT field hockey co-captain Deanna Lentz '05 during a match last Tuesday evening. After rallying back from a 3-0 deficit, MIT lost in overtime 4-3.

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Saturday, Oct. 11
1 p.m., Women's Field Hockey, Wellesley

1 p.m., Men's Football, WNEC

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